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TOTAL FOOTBALL

HYUNDAI A-LEAGUE **ROUND SIX** SEASON 2005-06

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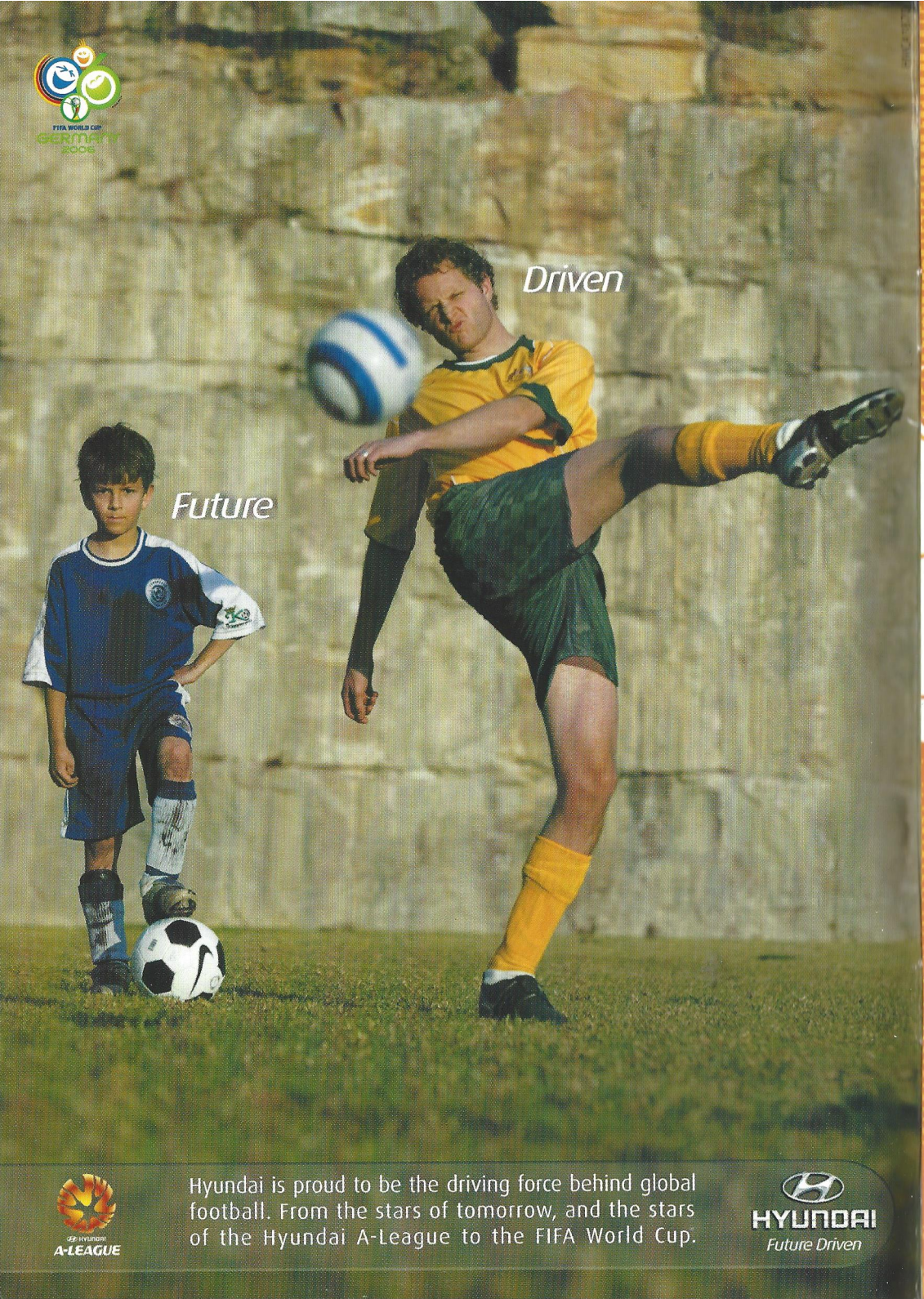
PERTH GLORY

VS

SYDNEY FC

Members Equity Stadium, October 1

SYDNEY FC



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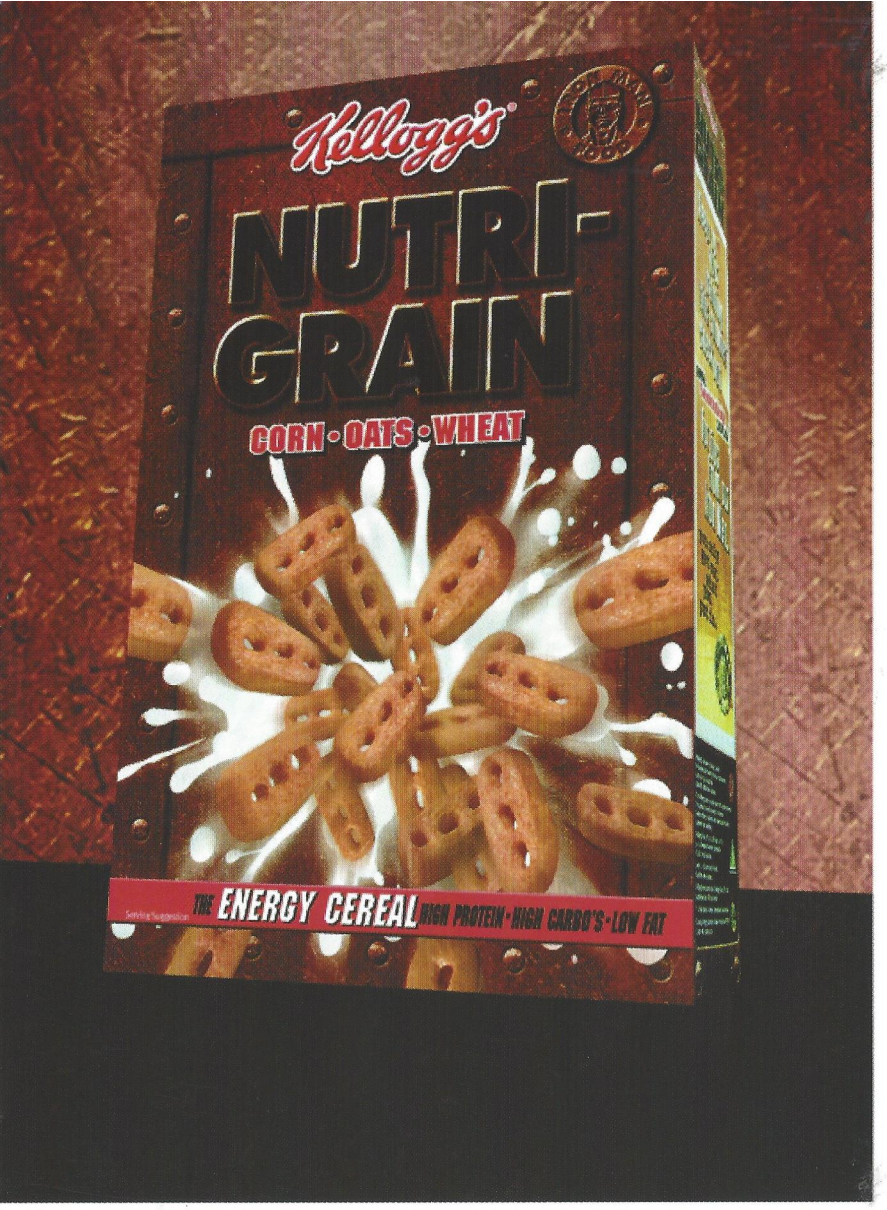

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WORDS: Michael Lynch

LASHING BACK

A quarter of the way into the Hyundai A-League season, there are plenty of surprises still in store – as last weekend's games proved.

With a quarter of the inaugural Hyundai A League season – five rounds – gone, Adelaide United continue to march on, three points clear at the top of the table, after forcing a home draw with their closest rivals Central Coast Mariners.

While United remain the only side yet to lose, the competition's only team without a win, Melbourne Victory, finally broke its duck. A second-half Archie Thompson header gave the team a 1-0 triumph over high-flying Newcastle Jets in an entertaining contest at Olympic Park.

Queensland Roar pulled a record crowd of more than 23,000 to Suncorp Stadium, but it did them little good as they succumbed to Sydney FC's backlash. They crashed 3-1 to Pierre Littbarski's team, for whom Steve Corica stood out.

While Sydney made the short trip to Brisbane, Perth Glory took to the air for one of the longest road trips in world sport and emerged victorious from their foray to Auckland. A second-half goal by club captain Jamie Harnwell gave them a 1-0

Previous page: Melbourne Victory players celebrate their first win for the season.

This page: Naum Sekulovski in action for Perth Glory.

Opposite page: Jacob Timpano playing for Sydney FC.

victory over the luckless New Zealand Knights.

The shell-shocked Knights were looking to rebound quickly after their 4-0 hammering in Newcastle four days earlier when they fronted up for the first match of Round Five at North Harbour Stadium last Thursday night. Veteran coach John Adshead fired up his charges and left out goalkeeper Danny Milosevic – whose blunders gave Newcastle a flying start in their round four match – in favour of New Zealander Glen Moss.

The Knights hit the ground running and took the game to the Glory, themselves looking to bounce back after another home defeat in round four against table-toppers Adelaide. The Kiwis peppered the Glory goal and did everything but score in the opening period. Perth improved in the second half and got the goal that settled the game with barely 20 minutes left. Captain Jamie Harnwell reacted quickest in a goalmouth scramble as the ball ricocheted around the area from Jamie Coyne's cross, and slammed it home from close range. Perth gave a Hyundai A-League debut to their newest short-term signing, Damien Mori.

In front of an impressive crowd in Brisbane, the Queensland Roar took on Sydney in a game that was marketed as a State-of-Origin clash.

The Roar has won plenty of friends in its short time; coach Miron Bleiberg's decision to recruit exciting young players and adopt an attacking policy is proving popular. In contrast Sydney, with its "glamour club" tag, is the team everyone wants to beat.

The writing was on the wall early. The visitors began brightly and pushed the home side right from the kick-off. Sydney got the early break it was searching for when Steve Corica capitalised on a defensive mistake and slammed home past Tom Wills.

Roar drew level shortly after the interval in fortuitious circumstances when teenage defender Jacob Timpano, deputising for Rudan, deflected a cross into his own net.

But Sydney didn't drop their heads. It was Corica, himself returning from suspension, who restored the advantage with a terrific goal, despatching a stunning volley from outside the penalty area past Willis.

Sydney wrapped the game up when midfielder Terry McFlynn got on the scoresheet with a deft chip over Wills after Roar made a hash of clearing their lines.

At Olympic Park in Melbourne another strong crowd of almost 14,000 turned up to see if Victory could finally live up to their name.

The visitors almost got off to a flying start when Ante Milicic had the ball in the net after coolly slotting home from Liam Reddy's long clearance, only for the strike to be disallowed for offside. Newcastle had the best of the first half, but Melbourne took the game to them in the second period. Victory deservedly hit the front in the 68th minute when Archie Thompson escaped his markers to get on the end of a Kristian Sarkies free kick to head home.

When the final whistle went, the relief on the Melbourne players faces was almost as palpable as that of the crowd as

Newcastle Jets keeper Liam Reddy blocks a Melbourne attack.

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Central Coast's Adam Kwasnik and Andre Gumprecht celebrate an equaliser.

they celebrated the club's first win.

Over in South Australia, Adelaide missed a great chance to put even more distance between itself and its closest challengers when it was held to a 1-1 daw by an injury depleted Central Coast.

Central Coast, missing several first-teamers, took a 19th-minute lead through Adam Kwasnik, who headed home a John Hutchinson corner. Adelaide levelled 15 minutes later when big defender Mike Valkanis got on the end of a Richie Alagich cross to net the equaliser.

United is still unbeaten after five rounds, and has only conceded two goals, making it the stingiest side in the competition by far.

Friday, September 30

CENTRAL COAST MAIRNERS VS MELBOURNE VICTORY

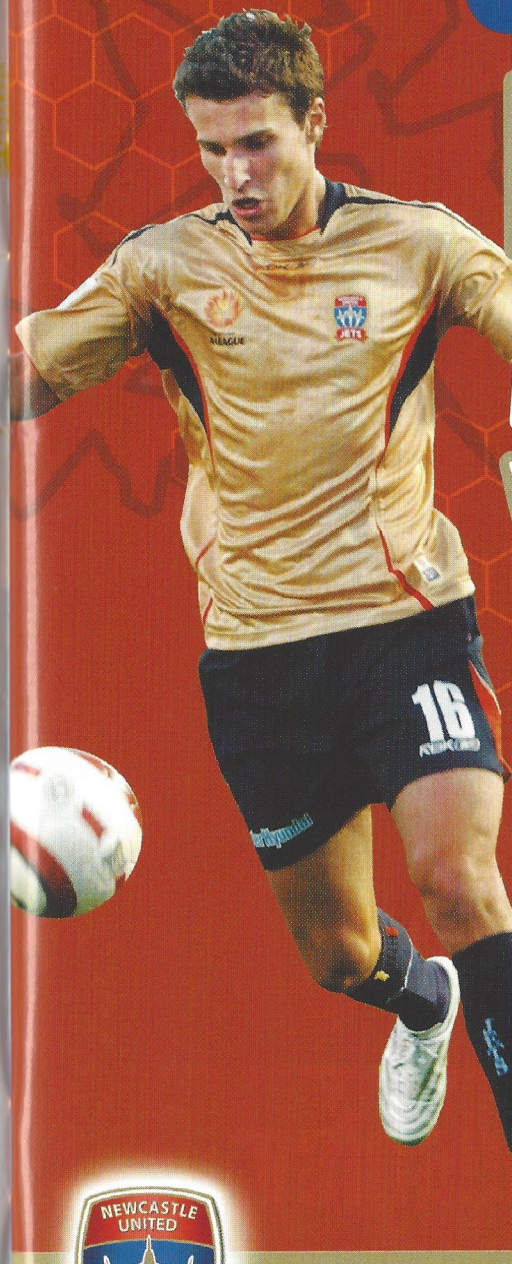
Central Coast Stadium, Gosford

This week's action has Central Coast and Melbourne facing a quick turnaround as they open Round Six in Gosford on Friday night. Melbourne will take plenty of confidence from their first win and will be looking to exact revenge on the side that inflicted their worst-ever defeat – a 3-1 home loss – in the pre-season semi-final in August.

The Mariners will hope to get some of their walking wounded back as they seek to consolidate their strong start to the season. Michael Beauchamp, Matthew Osman and Stewart Petrie are likely to return from injury as the club looks to notch its first home win of the campaign.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 8TH

EAST MEETS WEST



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Saturday, October 1

NEWCASTLE JETS VS QUEENSLAND ROAR

EnergyAustralia Stadium, Newcastle

Newcastle will seek to bounce back straight away when it entertains Queensland Roar at EnergyAustralia Stadium on Saturday night. The Jets had strung together two wins in succession before last Sunday's reverse, and will go into this game as favourites against a Roar side struggling to find winning form.

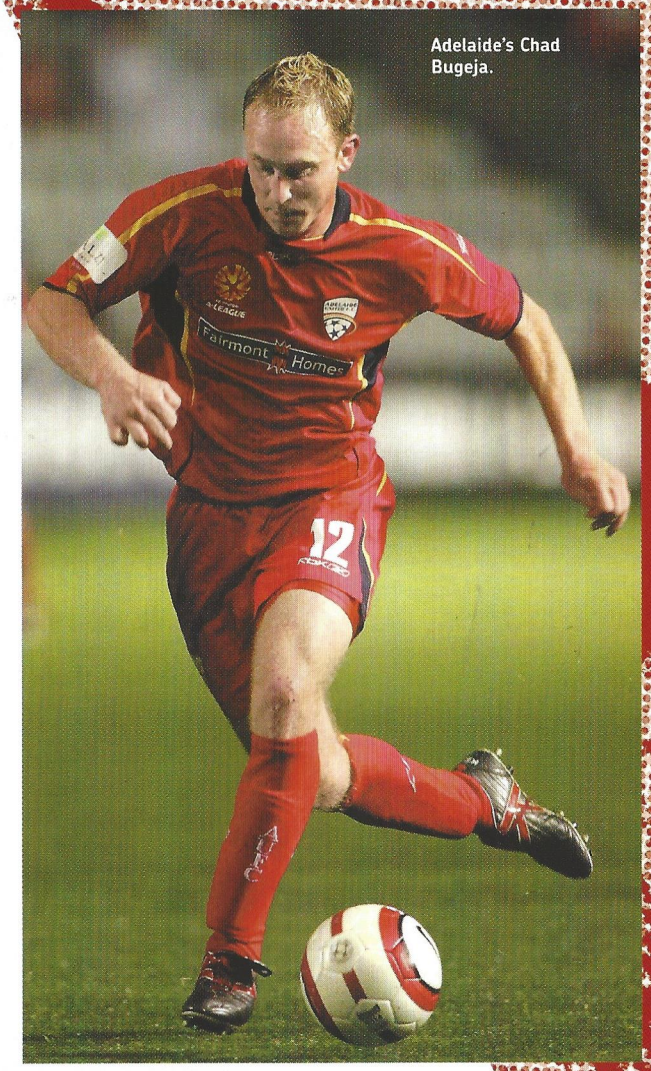
Nick Carle was impressive for the Jets in their defeat in Melbourne, and his flair will be important for the hosts if they are to get home here. Roar will hope key striker Alex Brosque is fit enough to take his place in the starting lineup.

Saturday, October 1

PERTH GLORY VS SYDNEY FC

Members Equity Stadium, Perth

Perth Glory, one of a cluster of clubs on seven points, will be anxious to improve their poor home record when they entertain Sydney FC at Members Equity Stadium. Glory has lost twice in front of their own fans (to Central Coast and Adelaide) but will take heart from their win in New Zealand. Brian Deane and Bobby Despotovski are getting used to each other's style, while Damien Mori will be a potent weapon either off the bench or on the pitch from the start. For Sydney, Dwight Yorke has been in terrific form, both scoring goals and creating opportunities for others, and his touch, vision and guile have made him the go-to man for his teammates.



Adelaide's Chad Bugeja.

Sunday, October 2

NEW ZEALAND KNIGHTS VS ADELAIDE UNITED

The round concludes on Sunday evening when league leaders Adelaide will try to emulate Perth when they travel to Auckland to take on the Knights.

The Knights are desperate to regain winning form after four losses from five games. They have yet to take a point in front

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Queensland Roar's Alex Brosque sprints from a Sydney FC player.

of their own fans after losing to both Perth and Sydney there and can ill afford any more slip-ups. Adelaide, eight points ahead of the Knights on the ladder, are travelling smoothly and have proved one of the most organised and resilient teams in the competition.

Brazilian Fernando Rech signed for the club just before the start of Round Five, and will be looking to make an impact as soon as possible, while Chinese striker Shenqing Qu is steadily playing himself into form and fitness after returning from injury.

Michael Lynch is chief football writer for The Age *in Melbourne.*

HYUNDAI A-LEAGUE – ROUND 5 REVIEW

PERTH GLORY 1 (Jamie Harnwell 67') **NEW ZELAND KNIGHTS 0** Crowd: 4938

SYDNEY FC 3 (Steve Corica 5', 67", Terry McFlynn 72') **QUEENSLAND ROAR 1** (Jacob Timpano og 51') Crowd: 23,142

MELBOURNE VICTORY 1 (Archie Thompson 69') **NEWCASTLE JETS 0** Crowd: 13,831

ADELAIDE UNITED 1 (Michael Valkanis 34') **CENTRAL COAST MARINERS 1** (Adam Kwasnik 19') Crowd: 7013

TABLE

	Played	Win	Draw	Loss	GF	GA	Pts
Adelaide United FC	5	3	2	0	5	2	11
Central Coast Mariners	5	2	2	1	6	6	8
Newcastle Jets	5	2	1	2	7	4	7
Sydney FC	5	2	1	2	10	8	7
Perth Glory	5	2	1	2	6	6	7
Melbourne Victory	5	1	3	1	5	5	6
Queensland Roar	5	1	2	2	5	6	5
New Zealand Knights	5	1	0	4	3	10	3

INDIVIDUAL STATS PROVIDED BY SPORTSDATA

Goals		Goal Assists		Fouls Conceded		Tackles	
Bobby Despotovski (PG)	3	Nick Carle (NUJ)	3	Ross Aloisi (AUFC)	18	Steve Pantelidis (MV)	30
Dwight Yorke (SFC)	3	Alex Brosque (QR)	2	Michael Baird (QR)	17	Kevin Muscat (MV)	29
Michael Baird (QR)	2	Simon Colosimo (PG)	2	Stewart Petrie (CCM)	17	Simon Colosimo (PG)	28
Steve Corica (SFC)	2	Kristian Sarkies (MV)	2	Jonathan Richter (QR)	17	Michael Beauchamp (CCM)	25
Ante Milicic (NUJ)	2	Ross Aloisi (AUFC)	1	Adam Kwasnik (CCM)	15	Angelo Costanzo (AUFC)	25
Stewart Petrie (CCM)	2	Michael Baird (QR)	1	Sean Devine (NZK)	14	Carl Recchia (MV)	24
Noel Spencer (CCM)	2	Louis Brain (AUFC)	1	Carl Veart (AUFC)	14	Geoffrey Claeys (MV)	22
Archie Thompson (MV)	2	David Carney (SFC)	1	Michael Ferrante (MV)	13	Hyuk-Su Seo (QR)	20
		Ben Collett (NZK)	1	Terry McFlynn (SFC)	13	Billy Celeski (PG)	18
		Steve Corica (SFC)	1	Nick Carle (NUJ)	12	Josh McCloughan (QR)	18

TEAM STATS PROVIDED BY SPORTSDATA

Goals		Goal Assists		Fouls Conceded		Tackles	
Sydney FC	10	Sydney FC	6	Queensland Roar	107	Melbourne Victory	164
Newcastle Jets	7	Perth Glory	5	Adelaide United	103	Queensland Roar	146
Central Coast Mariners	6	Newcastle Jets	5	Central Coast Mariners	97	Adelaide United	142
Perth Glory	6	New Zealand Knights	4	Melbourne Victory	95	New Zealand Knights	139
Adelaide United	5	Melbourne Victory	4	Newcastle Jets	92	Perth Glory	134
Melbourne Victory	5	Central Coast Mariners	3	Sydney FC	91	Central Coast Mariners	124
Queensland Roar	5	Queensland Roar	3	New Zealand Knights	83	Sydney FC	117
New Zealand Knights	3	Adelaide United	2	Perth Glory	80	Newcastle Jets	102

SLATER SAYS
WITH ROBBIE SLATER

THE HOLY GRAIL

The impending World Cup qualifier may mean the end for some Qantas Socceroos, but it also means a new beginning for others.

With the all-important World Cup qualifier against the fifth-placed South American side looming large on the horizon, many of the current Qantas Socceroos squad are facing the harsh reality that this could be their last chance to achieve the dream of World Cup football. But, as one generation makes way, the next generation will take its place. Going on early impressions, I can see a large portion of the team being founded on Australian-based talent in the years to come.

As I found in 1998, age can bring an international career to its end quickly. Players will be aware this could be their last chance to experience a World Cup. Having come so close personally, I know exactly what will be going through the heads of Australia's senior players.

Stan Lazaridis stands out in my mind, especially given the amount of football we have played together. It is probably his last chance, along with Tony Popovic and Tony Vidmar, and a host of others could struggle due to their age. They have suffered heartbreak in the past and will be hoping that we build on the success of the Hyundai A-League.

Following November's clash with the South American challengers, another four-year cycle will begin. At this point, the next qualification campaign will start, and a new group of players will enter the international setup. Going on the ambitions of the Hyundai A-League, it is fair to assume the number of Australian-based players in the Qantas Socceroos squad will increase. Sasho Petrovksi, David Zdrilic, Simon Colosimo and Archie Thompson have already been involved in the international setup since the start of the Hyundai A-League, which shows that Australian-based players are being recognised.

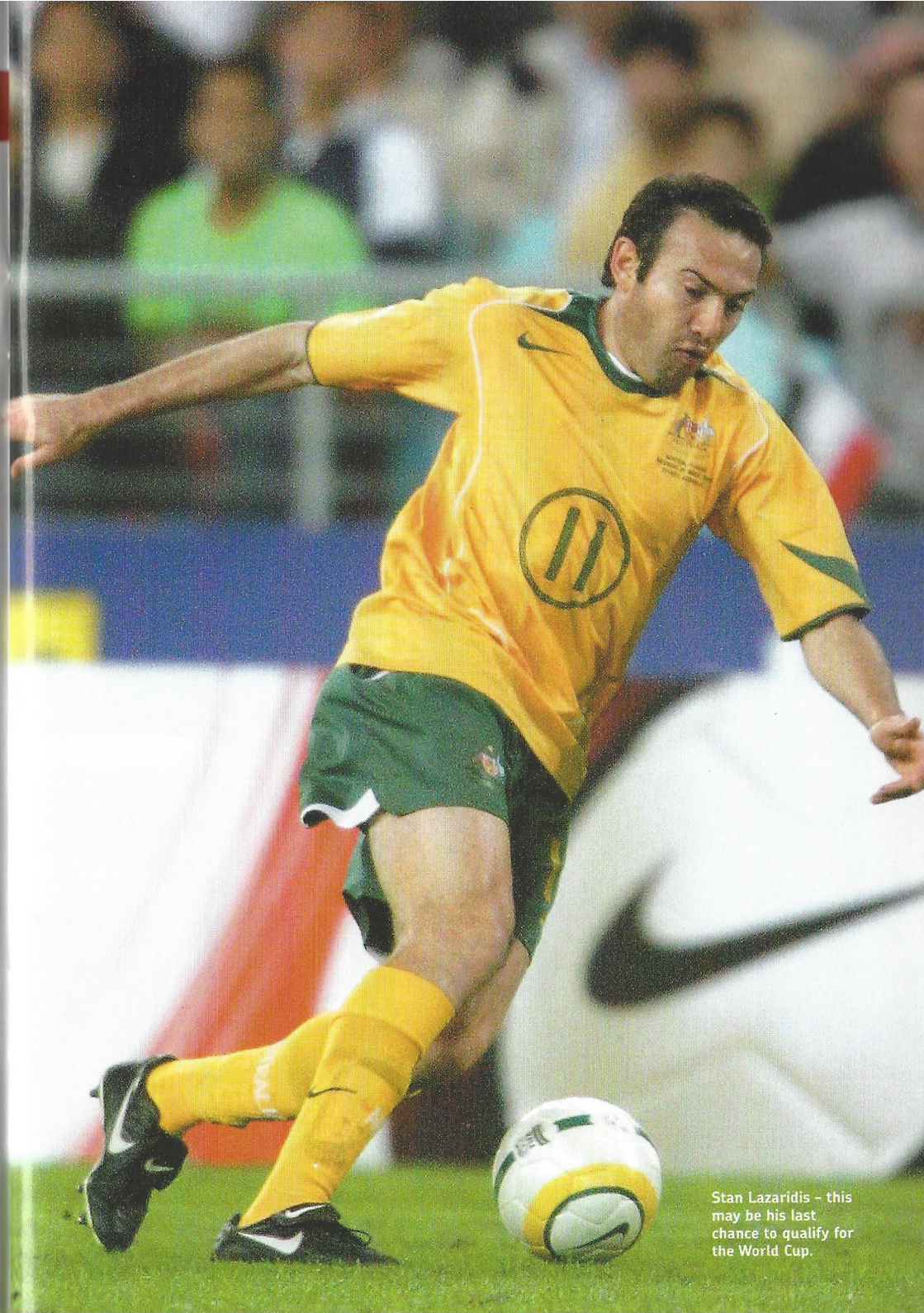
What this means is that the Qantas Socceroos will not be made up exclusively of overseas-based players. I'm not saying we won't lose the best of our talent to Europe. Players like Harry Kewell, Mark Viduka and Tim Cahill are world class and will always head to the biggest clubs in Europe. But, due to the rising standard of Australian domestic football, the majority of players will not feel the need to leave these shores, especially when they know that they can achieve their international aspirations in Australia.

The knock-on effect of international players being based in Australia is that youngsters in Australia will be able to spend time watching their icons in the flesh, instead of in the middle of the night on TV and in leagues spread around the world. Basically, the Hyundai A-League is quickly heading in the right direction – just look at the State of Origin-like clash between the Queensland Roar and Sydney FC that attracted almost 24,000 supporters.

Stay behind the league and support the Qantas Socceroos because World Cup qualification is literally footsteps away. Hopefully by 2010, Australia will be taking on the world's best in South Africa for the second successive World Cup, and the best of Hyundai A-League will be showcasing their talents on the world stage.

Enjoy today's game and I will see you next week, Robbie.

Robbie Slater is chief football analyst for Fox Sports and the Hyundai ambassador for football in Australia.



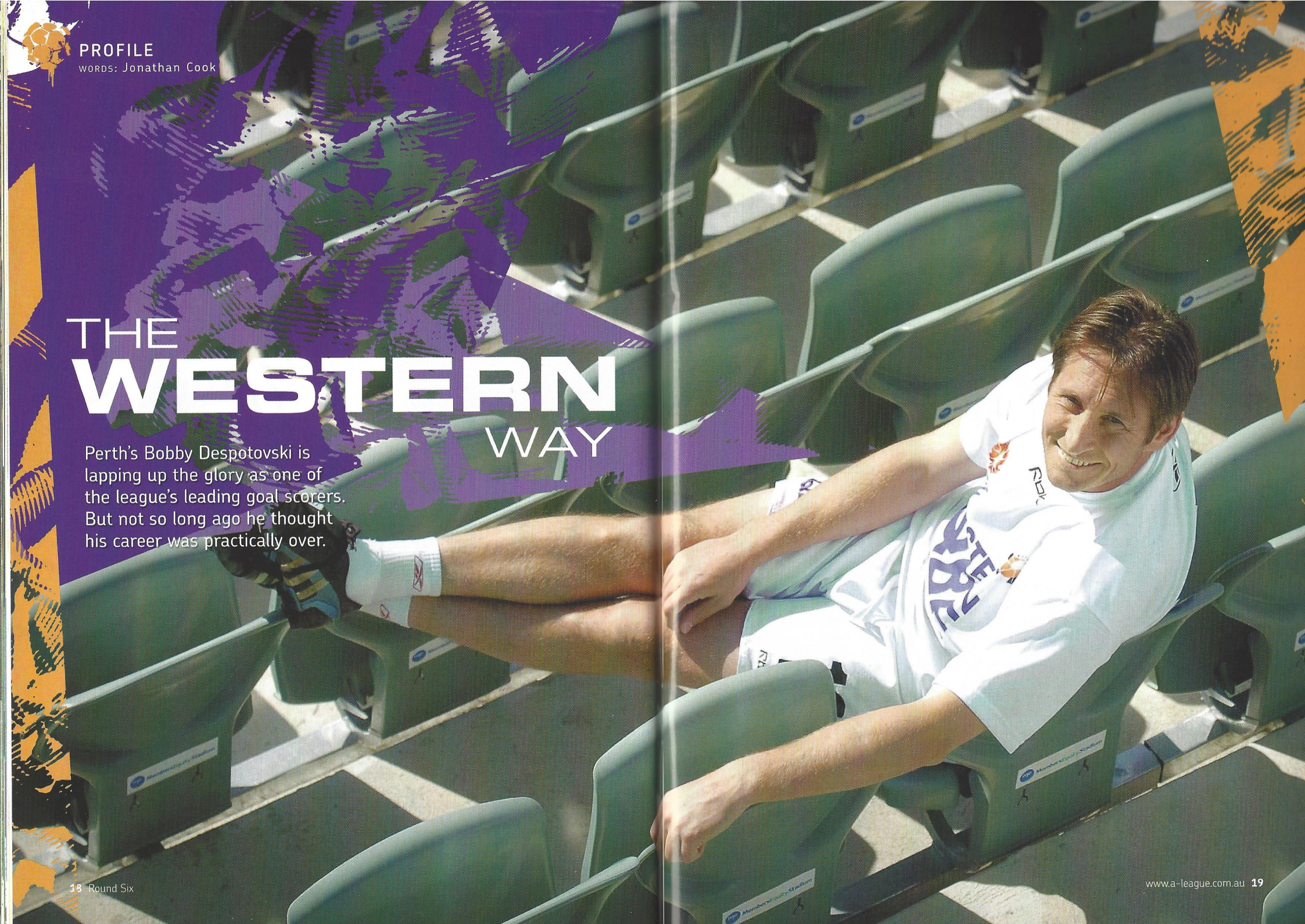
Stan Lazaridis – this may be his last chance to qualify for the World Cup.

PROFILE

WORDS: Jonathan Cook

THE WESTERN WAY

Perth's Bobby Despotovski is lapping up the glory as one of the league's leading goal scorers. But not so long ago he thought his career was practically over.



Bobby Despotovski had been preparing to draw the curtain on a richly rewarding career in Australian football when a thought occurred to him.

Almost from the moment he learned there would be an 18-month hiatus before the unveiling of the new Hyundai A-League, he had considered his playing days had come to an end.

He knew he was well equipped to compete at State level, but at 33, he felt the break from the rigours of full-time professionalism had guillotined his chances of pulling on Perth Glory colours for a final fling in football's brave new world.

Then, as the pieces started to fall into place for the eight-team Hyundai A-League, he was struck by the possibilities ahead.

What if the legs that still carried him so comfortably in the New South Wales state league, where he had landed a deal with Bonnyrigg, could still take him past defenders at the very pinnacle of the domestic game?

There was only one way to find out. Despotovski accepted a one-year deal to kick on with his Glory career.

"I've never looked more than one year ahead. Maybe that's what got me through (to another season) and got me to perform to the best of my ability (over the years)," Despotovski says, pondering the secret of his career longevity.

He does not spend extra hours on the training track, and is not a gym junkie. "I'm 34," he laughs.

Ask anyone who has ever tried to put a lid on his talent (and despite what has been said about him by opposing fans) and it is clear there is still a great deal of respect for Glory's number 10.

Glory defender Ante Kovacevic, who joined the club after playing for Melbourne Knights, Adelaide City and South Melbourne, says his admiration of Despotovski has grown significantly since he moved to Western Australia.

"He's a fantastic player and I've got more of an appreciation now that I'm training with him and seeing him everyday," Kovacevic says.

"He's very dangerous around the box, as we've seen over the years with the number of goals he's scored."

Born in Perth and raised in the former Yugoslavia, Despotovski returned to Australia in the early 1990s and played in the WA state league before moving to Heidelberg, Morwell and back to WA for Glory's inaugural season in 1996.

After less than two glorious years in Perth, a European move beckoned. It was the stuff of dreams for Despotovski. But just as he was ready to reap the rich benefits of a contract with Greek side PAOK Salonika, the deal fell through.

"I was very disappointed. It was a lot of money to lose and would have been a good experience," he says.

After swallowing that bitter pill, Despotovski's focus returned to Perth, where his regular supply of goals helped the club win two championships. He also won three Most Glorious Player Awards as the club's best performer in the process.

In between, Despotovski won his first Qantas Socceroos cap just one week before his 31st birthday in 2002. He went on to play another three times for his country in an ultimately disappointing Oceania Nations Cup. Australia failed to reach the Confederations Cup after losing 1-0 to New Zealand in the final. Nonetheless, it still ranks among his most proud moments.

"Obviously I wanted to represent Australia and it was a highlight for me. But so was winning the championship," he says when asked to recall his most memorable moment in football.

While Despotovski's decision to polish his boots for another season might not have been the greatest news for his wife Lidija and young sons Tomas, Kristian and Sebastian, it has been bonus for the Hyundai A-League.

Now in his mid-30s, Despotovski does not have the pace he once had, though he has never relied

"He's very dangerous around the box, as we've seen over the years with the number of goals he's scored..."
- Ante Kovacevic

on blinding speed to send his opponents retreating. Stealth is his weapon. He can drop off defenders, find half a yard of space and make it look as if he is operating in a vast, open field.

In the opening rounds of the new competition, he flitted in and out of play, popping up to feed off a Brian Deane flick or a Simon Colosimo pass, then twisting and turning his way into an ideal shooting position.

For fans in Perth, it is *deja vu*. Despotovski has lost none of the guile or the desire to entertain, and his radar is still operating perfectly. A fine double in a 2-1 win over Queensland Roar was satisfying for Despotovski, but not entirely – his penalty shot in the game rattled a post. A hat-trick would have been fitting and symbolic just after Lidija had given birth to their third son.

The difficulties of bringing up a brood of potential football stars has cost Despotovski a lot of sleep, but not the desire to lead Glory towards a finals place. He juggles time with his kids and the Hyundai A-League with running his sports store, the appropriately titled Bobby 10 Football World, named after the number he has worn for a decade with Glory. And he still has the longing and energy to make a difference at the club.

Matt Horsley, who won two championships with Wollongong Wolves before moving west and winning two with Glory, believes Despotovski is one of the most talented players to have graced the Australian domestic scene.

Horsley, whose wit is invaluable in the Glory dressing room, is serious when praising his teammate.

"He's one of the best players the National Soccer League has ever seen," Horsley said. "You can see even at 34 he's scoring goals, getting in good positions and being a major contributor to the team. He's got good touches, good vision. He's a good team player and he knows how to finish."

Horsley considers Despotovski a barometer of Glory's success. If Despotovski does well, Glory does well, he says. The accompaniment to that has always been a steady supply of taunts and jeers from the opposition fans.

"I think you know you've made it when opposing supporters give it to you. And Bobby cops it," Horsley says.

Despotovski is congratulated by his Glory teammates on another goal.

QUICK HITS

Bobby Despotovski
CLUB: Perth Glory
POSITION: Striker
PREVIOUS CLUBS:
Morwell Falcons
Heidelberg, Floreat Athena

Despotovski and Naum Sekulovski celebrate a Glory goal.

It was during Glory's inaugural season in 1996, under then coach Gary Marocchi, that Despotovski really started to impress. He scored 14 goals in 23 games as the team narrowly missed out on their first finals campaign.

Back then, Horsley was an established player at Wollongong. He would later lock horns with Despotovski in an epic grand final in 2000 that finished 3-3 after extra time, and was won by Horsley's side after a dramatic penalty shoot-out.

"Whenever I played against him when I was at Wollongong he was the danger man to watch out for. The coach would always say, 'Keep an eye out for Bobby because we know he can turn nothing into something'," Horsley says.

"I loved coming across and teaming up with him because he doesn't just score goals – he provides them as well. He's been great for the club and a great servant."

Jonathan Cook is football writer for The West Australian *newspaper in Perth.*

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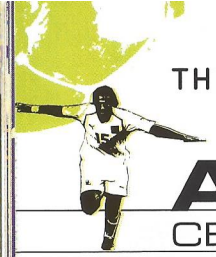

ALEX WILKINSON

CENTRAL COAST MARINERS

AGE: 21 **POSITION:** Defender

WORDS: Dave MacBryde

Forget talk of young and talented Australian defenders drying up. At the grand old age of 21 – a time when defenders are usually struggling to establish themselves – Alex Wilkinson has cemented his position at the heart of the Central Coast Mariners defence and is hoping to catch the eye of Qantas Socceroos coach Guus Hiddink.

At home in the heart of the defence or wide on the right flank, Wilkinson already has an immense amount of experience for his age. Before joining the Mariners, Wilkinson spent two years playing regular first-team football for Northern Spirit in the old National Soccer League.

He has also been a regular part of Australian youth squads, playing in the World Youth Cup in Dubai in 2003, and in the under-17 World Cup in Trinidad and Tobago in 2001.

Wilkinson is enjoying the challenge of lining up on the right of the Mariners defence, a position that allows him to attack down the flank. "It has been really good so far," Wilkinson says. "It is a big step up for me compared with the old league, and I'm enjoying going forward and attacking."

He has been enjoying his football since lining up in the junior ranks for North Ryde RSL. Steadily progressing, Wilkinson was playing for a Gladesville-Hornsby representative team as a teenager when he caught the eye of Northern Spirit management. From 15 to 17, he played for Spirit's youth team. At 18, he made his first-team debut for Northern Spirit under current Mariners coach Lawrie McKinna in 2002.

McKinna says he had no hesitation in throwing Wilkinson into the fray at Spirit. "I think he might have missed the first game, but he played every one after that, unless he was away playing for his country. Alex just does his job every week. You can play at centre-back or on the right, it doesn't faze him. He is comfortable on the ball and good in the air and gets up and down the flank well."

Wilkinson's steady performances for the Mariners belie his young age. His calmness and mature play have made him a vital part of the team. Wilkinson says playing alongside former Qantas Socceroo captain Alex Tobin at Spirit (who is now the Mariners' development manager) was a great learning experience and shaped his current playing style.

"He was a massive influence on me," says Wilkinson. "Back when I started, he helped me in a huge way with my positioning, telling me where I should always be. He made it much easier for me."

Playing for the Mariners means performing in a tough league every week. But the biggest stage for Wilkinson in his fledgling career was the 2003 World Youth Cup in Dubai. There, Wilkinson was part of the Australian team that famously beat eventual winners Brazil 3-2. He had his hands full coping with young Brazilian stars such as Daniel Carvalho, who starred in Spartak Moscow's UEFA Cup win earlier this year. Wilkinson played a big part in the talked-about win.

"It was fantastic. I remember looking over at the scoreboard at one stage and seeing 'Australia 2, Brazil 0'. I couldn't believe it."

"It was fantastic. I remember looking over at the scoreboard at one stage and seeing 'Australia 2, Brazil 0'. I couldn't believe it. Then it was 3-0. While they scored two late goals, we hung on."

McKinna believes it won't be long before Wilkinson comes into serious consideration for a spot in the Qantas Socceroos squad. Early next year, the Qantas Socceroos will attempt to qualify for the 2007 Asian Cup.

Some of the early matches will pit Australia against football minnows such as Sri Lanka and the Maldives. These games will be played outside official FIFA international dates, meaning the squad will almost certainly be made up of Hyundai A-League players.

According to McKinna, "Alex will certainly be knocking on that door, alongside teammate Michael Beauchamp who has already been called up to the full squad."

Wilkinson has a further year to run on his Mariners contract after this season. Then he says he will start considering a dream move to Europe.

"I definitely want to go overseas eventually, but I want to go over there and play first-team football and not get stuck in the reserves," says Wilkinson. "If that means staying in Australia for the time being, so be it. But that is the major goal."

For now, one of Wilkinson's dreams for this season is to get forward and actually score some goals. "I'm yet to put one in, whether for the Mariners or the Spirit. But I usually go forward for the corners, so I'm hoping to get a couple this season. Maybe a couple of headers or, you never know, a 30-yard shot. That would be good."

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PERTH GLORY
Player Profiles

JASON PETKOVIC — 1
GOALKEEPER

Born 7-12-72 **Games** 5
Height 194cm **Goals** 0
Weight 85kg

Second spell with Perth after a season in Turkey. Former NSL goalkeeper-of-the-year and has played at senior international level.

MATTHEW HORSLEY — 2
DEFENDER/MIDFIELDER

Born 9-6-72 **Games** 1
Height 183cm **Goals** 0
Weight 77kg

Tough, game and consistent right-sided wing-back. Four-time NSL champion, twice as skipper of Wollongong, twice with Perth. Has played for Australia at senior level.

SIMON COLOSIMO — 4
MIDFIELDER

Born 8-1-79 **Games** 5
Height 183cm **Goals** 0
Weight 75kg

Current international who scored the winner in Australia's victory over New Zealand in London. A Marston medal-winner for best afield in an NSL grand final.

JAMIE HARNWELL — 5
DEFENDER

Born 21-7-77 **Games** 5
Height 188cm **Goals** 1
Weight 93kg

One of Perth's more experienced players, he is a no-nonsense defender who bobs up at the other end of the pitch to score crucial goals. The Glory's captain.

STEVE McMAHON JR — 6
MIDFIELDER

Born 31-7-84 **Games** 4
Height 175cm **Goals** 0
Weight 71kg

The first signing made by his father Steve, the Glory's coach. Hard-running and tenacious, he also played for McMahon senior at Blackpool in England.

SCOTT MILLER — 7
DEFENDER

Born 18-5-72 **Games** 5
Height 178cm **Goals** 0
Weight 75kg

Miller has been with the Glory since the club entered the old NSL in 1996. Left-sided wing-back who missed much of last year with Achilles problems.

NICK WARD — 8
MIDFIELDER

Born 24-3-85 **Games** 5
Height 183cm **Goals** 0
Weight 79kg

Young Socceroo anxious to stake his claim. A hard-working, tireless runner who scored the pre-season winner which snapped Sydney FC's unbeaten streak.

BOBBY DESPOTOVSKI — 10
STRIKER

Born 14-7-71 **Games** 5
Height 180cm **Goals** 3
Weight 81kg

Another in the veteran class, Glory's all-time top scorer put off retirement for another shot at the top-level in Australia. Quick, skilful and retains his eye for goal.

DANIEL VASILEVSKI — 11
MIDFIELDER

Born 4-9-81 **Games** 0
Height 177cm **Goals** 0
Weight 78kg

Ex-Carlton and Melbourne Knights junior international with a lot of class who's career has been blighted by injury. Used mainly as a wing-back or wide midfielder.

HIROYUKI ISHIDA — 12
WINGER

Born 13-8-79 **Games** 5
Height 171cm **Goals** 0
Weight 67kg

Flashy, pacy Japanese winger who illustrates the global nature of the game, having played in Brazil before arriving in Australia.

ANTE KOVACEVIC — 13
DEFENDER

Born 13-6-74 **Games** 5
Height 186cm **Goals** 0
Weight 89kg

Experienced, tough-tackling centre-back with good leadership qualities who can also play as a sweeper. Won two NSL titles as a youngster with the Melbourne Knights.

JAMIE COYNE — 14
DEFENDER/MIDFIELDER

Born 2-1-81 **Games** 5
Height 175cm **Goals** 0
Weight 76kg

Nowadays a right-back, Coyne began as a midfielder. Left Perth as a youngster and went to West Ham. Also had a spell in the Netherlands.

BILLY CELESKI — 15
MIDFIELD

Born 14-7-85 **Games** 5
Height 178cm **Goals** 0
Weight 73kg

Another Victorian who has gone west, Celeski came through the VIS program before moving on to the AIS. Has played for the Young Socceroos.

BRIAN DEANE — 16
STRIKER

Born 7-2-68 **Games** 5
Height 192cm **Goals** 0
Weight 79kg

Became a footnote in football history when he scored the first goal in the English Premier League for Sheffield United in August 1992. Former England international.

STUART YOUNG — 17
STRIKER

Born 16-12-72 **Games** 0
Height 183cm **Goals** 0
Weight 85kg

Veteran striker who will provide forward cover. Twice NSL champion alongside Horsley at Wollongong.

HENRY FA'ARODO — 18
STRIKER

Born 5-10-82 **Games** 2
Height 172cm **Goals** 0
Weight 70kg

The only Solomon Islands international in the Hyundai A-League. Blessed with lightening pace, but needs to improve his first touch if he wants to become a regular.

NAUM SEKULOVSKI — 19
MIDFIELDER/WINGER

Born 14-5-82 **Games** 2
Height 181cm **Goals** 0
Weight 81kg

Another Victorian who came out of the VIS program, and played at a number of NSL clubs. An attacking midfielder who will be expected to provide support in the final third.

MILAN JOVANIC — 20
GOALKEEPER

Born 31-7-85 **Games** 0
Height 187cm **Goals** 0
Weight 85kg

The Serbia and Montenegro youth international was pitched into action as first-choice keeper before Petkovic's clearance from Turkey came through.

ADRIAN CACERES — 21
MIDFIELDER/STRIKER

Born 1-10-82 **Games** 3
Height 180cm **Goals** 1
Weight 78kg

Won two NSL titles with the Glory before moving to the Wycombe Wanderers in England. He is on a short-term contract replacing the injured Neil Teggart.

DAMIAN MORI — 22
STRIKER

Born 30-9-70 **Games** 1
Height 182cm **Goals** 0
Weight 87kg

Former Adelaide City champion who has also been capped for the Qantas Socceroos 49 times. Once held the world record for fastest goal – in 3.69 seconds.

PERTH GLORY

Homeground:
Members Equity Stadium, Perth

Coach:
Steve McMahon

Captain:
Jamie Harnwell

No.	Name	Position	Goals
1.	Jason Petkovic	Goalkeeper	
2.	Matthew Horsley	Defender/Midfielder	
4.	Simon Colosimo	Midfielder	
5.	Jamie Harnwell	Defender	
6.	Steve McMahon Jr	Midfielder	
7.	Scott Miller	Defender	
8.	Nick Ward	Midfielder	
10.	Bobby Despotovski	Striker	
11.	Daniel Vasilevski	Midfielder	
12.	Hiroyuki Ishida	Winger	
13.	Ante Kovacevic	Defender	
14.	Jamie Coyne	Defender/Midfielder	
15.	Billy Celeski	Midfield	
16.	Brian Deane	Striker	
17.	Stuart Young	Striker	
18.	Henry Fa'arodo	Striker	
19.	Naum Sekulovski	Midfielder	
20.	Milan Jovanic	Goalkeeper	
21.	Adrian Caceres	Midfielder/Striker	
22.	Damian Mori	Striker	

TEAM SCORE

Half-time

Full-time

SYDNEY FC

No.	Name	Position	Goals
1.	Clint Bolton	Goalkeeper	
2.	Iain Fyfe	Defender	
3.	Alvin Ceccoli	Defender	
4.	Mark Rudan	Defender	
5.	Steve Laurie	Defender	
6.	Ufuk Talay	Midfielder	
7.	Robbie Middleby	Midfielder	
8.	Matthew Bingley	Midfielder	
9.	David Zdrilic	Striker	
10.	Steve Corica	Midfielder	
11.	Sasho Petrovski	Striker	
12.	David Carney	Midfielder	
13.	Alejandro Salazar	Striker	
14.	Andrew Packer	Midfielder	
15.	Terry McFlynn	Midfielder	
16.	Mark Milligan	Defender	
17.	Jacob Timpano	Defender	
18.	Wade Oostendorp	Defender	
19.	Dwight Yorke	Striker	
20.	Justin Pasfield	Goalkeeper	

Homeground:
Aussie Stadium, Sydney

Coach:
Pierre Littbarski

Captain:
Mark Rudan

TEAM SCORE

Half-time

Full-time

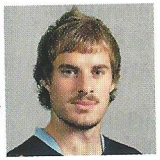
Sydney FC celebrating a goal.

SYDNEY FC
Player Profiles

CLINT BOLTON — 1
GOALKEEPER

Born 22-8-75 **Games** 5
Height 188cm **Goals** 0
Weight 95kg

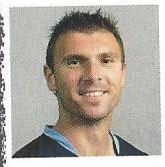
One of, if not the, top keepers in the Hyundai A-League, Bolton has been at the top level of the domestic game for years. Won an NSL title and is a full international.



IAIN FYFE — 2
DEFENDER

Born 3-4-82 **Games** 5
Height 185cm **Goals** 0
Weight 83kg

Fyfe is one of Sydney's key defenders, and has packed a lot of experience into his 23 years. Part of the Joey's run to the 1999 under-17 World Cup final.



ALVIN CECCOLI — 3
DEFENDER

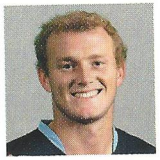
Born 5-8-74 **Games** 5
Height 178cm **Goals** 0
Weight 79kg

An experienced defender who will bring stability to Sydney's rearguard. A full international, he skippered Parramatta to the NSL Grand Final and won a title with Wollongong.

MARK RUDAN — 4
DEFENDER

Born 27-8-75 **Games** 4
Height 191cm **Goals** 1
Weight 90kg

Sydney's first captain, the tall and physically imposing Rudan is a commanding presence at the back. He has extensive overseas experience.



STEVE LAURIE — 5
DEFENDER

Born 30-10-82 **Games** 0
Height 195cm **Goals** 0
Weight 90kg

A big, strong central-defender, Laurie left Australia at an early age and spent several years in the West Ham junior development program.

UFUK TALAY — 6
MIDFIELDER

Born 26-3-76 **Games** 5
Height 178cm **Goals** 0
Weight 76kg

Described by Socceroo Josip Skoko as "the best Australian to have never played for the national team". Won an NSL title before his 18th birthday. Spent nine seasons in Turkey.

ROBBIE MIDDLEBY — 7
MIDFIELDER

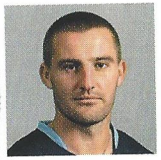
Born 9-8-75 **Games** 4
Height 173cm **Goals** 1
Weight 74kg

Fast, direct-running wide-midfielder. Can play on either the right or left, and can also be used as a forward. Joined Sydney from Newcastle.

MATTHEW BINGLEY — 8
MIDFIELDER

Born 16-8-71 **Games** 5
Height 183cm **Goals** 1
Weight 82kg

Peripatetic former Socceroo who played over 300 NSL games including the last-ever Grand Final with Perth. Can play in midfield, as a full-back or centre-back.



DAVID ZDRILIC — 9
STRIKER

Born 13-4-74 **Games** 5
Height 183cm **Goals** 0
Weight 85kg

Regular member of Socceroo squads in recent years, the hard-working Zdrilic has a wealth of experience. Will be hoping to be part of Australia's World Cup crusade.

STEVE CORICA — 10
MIDFIELDER

Born 24-3-73 **Games** 4
Height 174cm **Goals** 2
Weight 71kg

Returned home from England, where he playing for Birmingham-area club Wallsall. Also spent time in Japan and at other English clubs Wolves and Leicester.

SASHO PETROVSKI — 11
STRIKER

Born 5-3-75 **Games** 4
Height 181cm **Goals** 0
Weight 80kg

Surprise inclusion in Guus Hiddink's first Socceroo training camp, Petrovski has earned an enviable record as a consistent goalscorer at the top level.

DAVID CARNEY — 12
MIDFIELDER

Born 30-11-83 **Games** 5
Height 181cm **Goals** 0
Weight 78kg

Spent several years in the junior system at Everton (where he was a teammate of Wayne Rooney) before moving on to Oldham and then Hamilton in Scotland.

ALEJANDRO SALAZAR — 13
STRIKER

Born 18-2-84 **Games** 0
Height 182cm **Goals** 0
Weight 77kg

An American, son of the great marathon runner Alberto. Recruited from the US college system. Can play up-front or as an attacking midfielder.

ANDREW PACKER — 14
MIDFIELDER

Born 16-6-80 **Games** 5
Height 180cm **Goals** 1
Weight 78kg

Hard-running midfielder who can play on either flank or as a full-back. Packer was an under-17 international. Won NSL championships with Sydney Olympic and Perth.

TERRY McFLYNN — 15
MIDFIELDER

Born 27-3-81 **Games** 5
Height 174cm **Goals** 1
Weight 76kg

Box-to-box midfielder who represented Northern Ireland as a youth international. Arrived via Queens Park Rangers, for whom he made a handful of first-team starts.

MARK MILLIGAN — 16
DEFENDER

Born 4-8-85 **Games** 0
Height 178cm **Goals** 0
Weight 78kg

Played in two under-20 World Cups (in 2003 and 2005), the right-back made his NSL debut for Northern Spirit. Can also play in the midfield.

JACOB TIMPANO — 17
DEFENDER

Born 3-1-86 **Games** 4
Height 189cm **Goals** 0
Weight 86kg

One of several central-defenders in the Sydney squad, Timpano is a big, strong youngster who captained his country at youth level.

WADE OOSTENDORP — 18
DEFENDER

Born 20-4-88 **Games** 0
Height 183cm **Goals** 0
Weight 76kg

The baby of the entire competition, Oostendorp is very much a project player at the moment. Has played for the under-17 national team.

DWIGHT YORKE — 19
STRIKER

Born 3-3-71 **Games** 4
Height 179cm **Goals** 3
Weight 79kg

The league's biggest signing. A Champions League winner with Manchester United, Yorke has been a prolific scorer wherever he has played.

JUSTIN PASFIELD — 20
GOALKEEPER

Born 30-5-85 **Games** 0
Height 189cm **Goals** 0
Weight 78kg

Backup for Bolton. Like Timpano and Milligan, was part of the Australian under-20 side at the last Youth World Cup. Played in Ireland as well as for Wollongong in the NSL.

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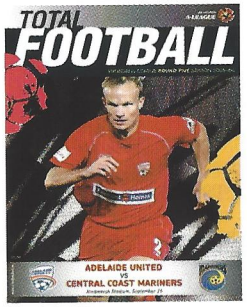

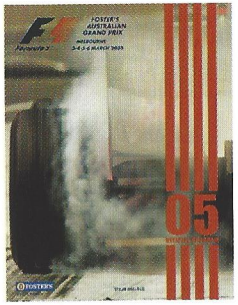

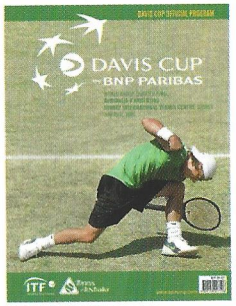

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NEWS CUSTOM PUBLISHING

WORDS: Aidan Ormond

Knights defender Danny Hay has gone from New Zealand to the English Premier League and back again – and he couldn't be happier in his home country.

LESSONS LEARNT

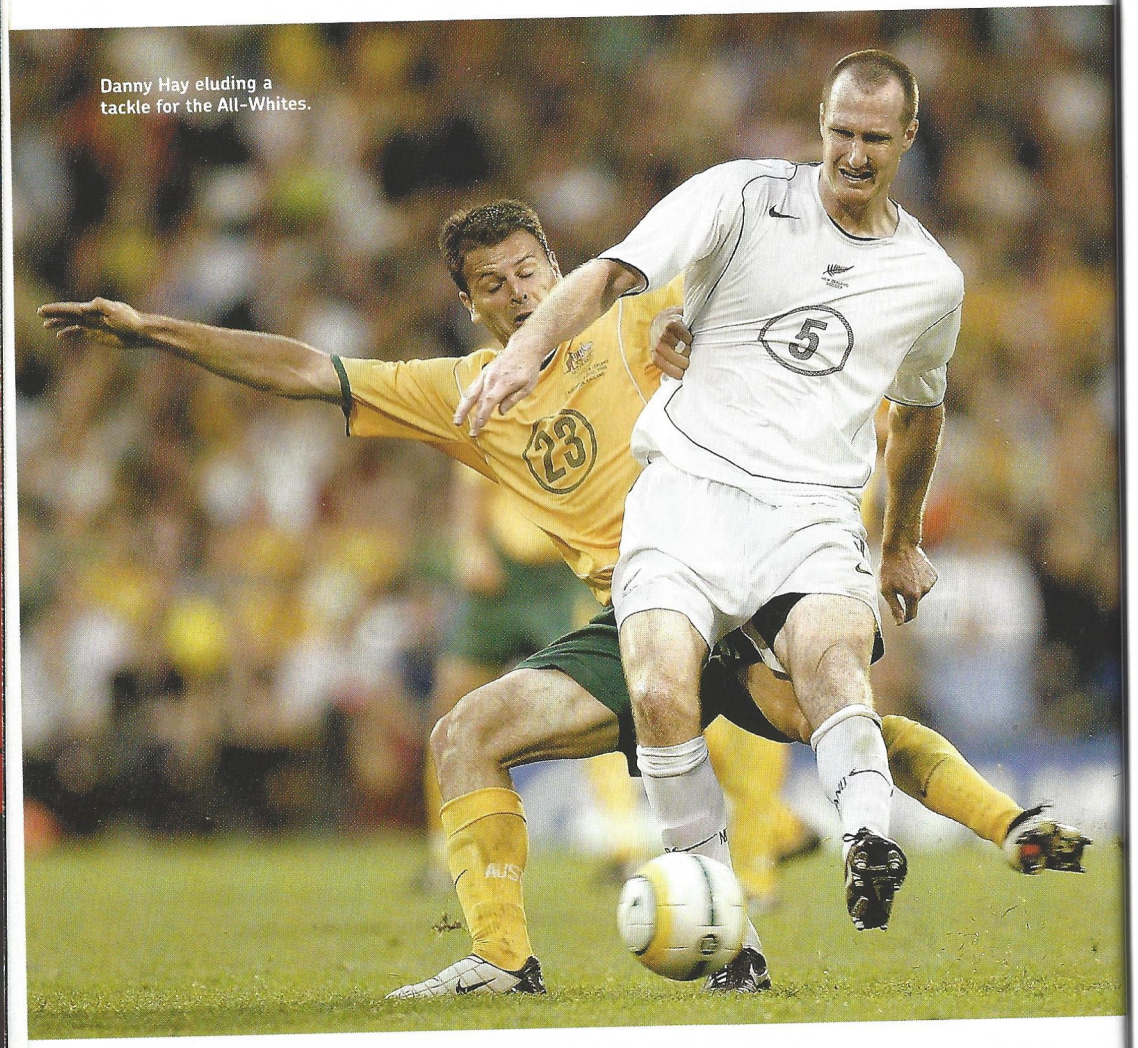
In high school, Danny Hay's teacher sent him to tough-as-nails English club Oldham Athletic for some grounding in the harsh world of professional football. It was an eye-opener for the young New Zealander – but it prepared him well.

Years later, he reaped the benefits. By 2002, Hay had played in the European Champions League against Spanish glamour side Barcelona, was part of one of the greatest matches in English Premier League history and had been capped by the New Zealand national team, the All-Whites.

Here, the ex-Leeds United and Perth Glory defender explains why the New Zealand Knights have been slow out of the Hyundai A-League blocks. He also reveals his passion for *Desperate Housewives* (the show, that is), how Colonel Klink may have coached him, and what the jokers in the Knights pack get up to when no one's looking.

***Total Football*: First up, Danny, what's the latest on your troublesome groin injury?**

Danny Hay: Yeah mate, I'm out for four weeks. I've had six operations on it over my career. I've just gotta do my recovery.



Danny Hay eluding a tackle for the All-Whites.

How do you cope when you're on the injured list?

(Laughs) I cope because I've had a lot of practice!

You were out for a year or so at Leeds United, weren't you?

That's right. I got injured during the pre-season in 2001 at Leeds. Whenever I'm injured, I still try to be part of things with the lads.

It must have been awesome playing with Harry Kewell, Mark Viduka, Lee Bowyer ...

Yeah, amazing memories. That game when Dukes (Mark Viduka) scored all four to beat Liverpool, it was unbelievable. And to have been part of that game when I came on early as a sub for Jon Woodgate – I'll always remember it.

And what do you recall about your stint with Perth Glory from 1997 to 1999?

Probably the best two years of my career. It was just fantastic.

Was it because Glory coach Bernd Stange reminded you of Colonel Klink from *Hogan's Heroes*?

(Laughs) No. Actually, now that you mention it, there is a bizarre resemblance.

Speaking of bizarre, what's the story with the Knights?

(Sighs) I think because we're from all over the world we don't really know each other yet.

Well, you've got English, Aussies, Kiwis, Chinese, even Dutch ...

Spot on – and we need time to gel. Then we'll fire.

Still, you've got Sean Devine – what gets him so aggressive on the pitch?

Yeah, he gets fired up. Does he scare you?

A bit ...

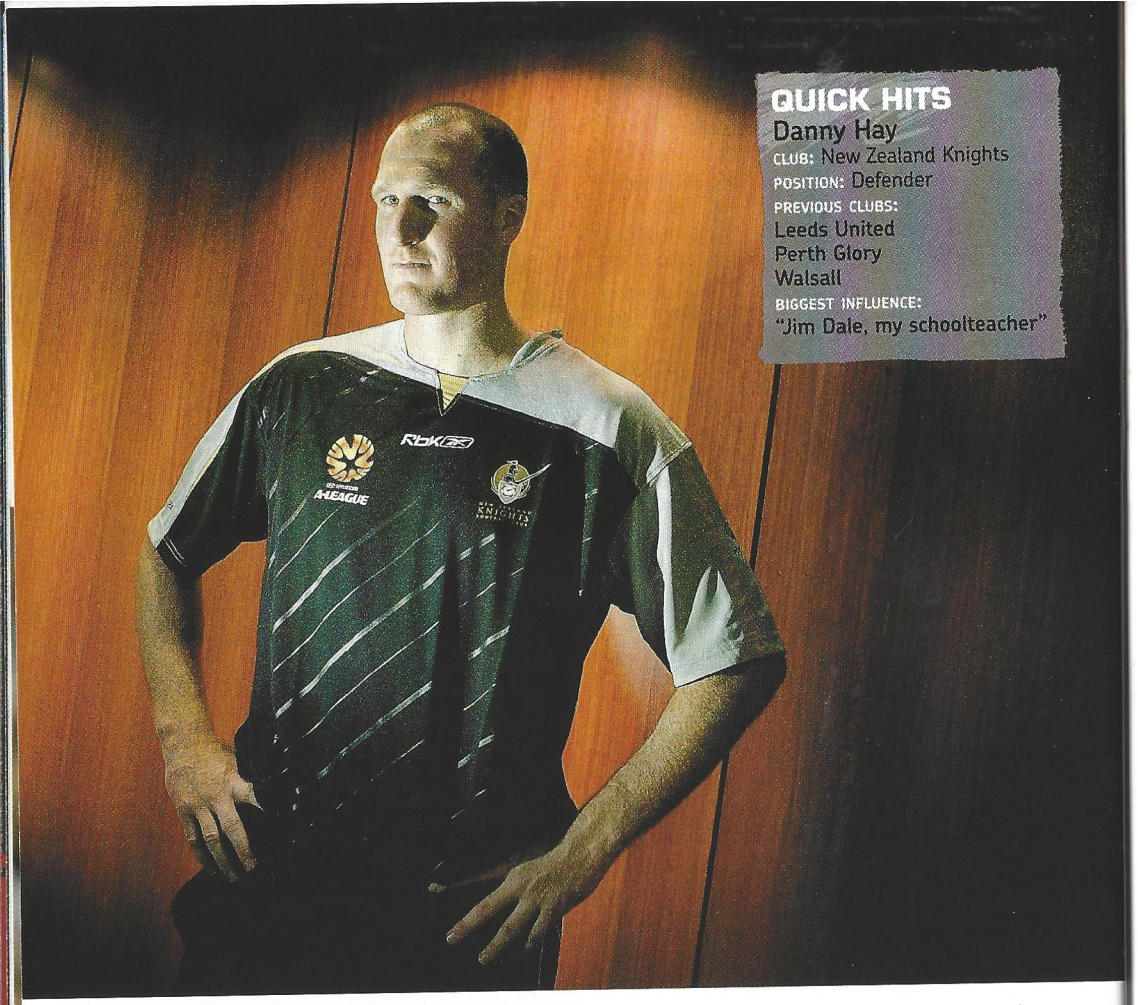
He's actually quite mild-mannered off the pitch. He's not a joker like some of the others.

Jokers? You must have some tour stories

I shouldn't tell you this ...

Go on Danny, you can tell us.

Well, before that Newcastle game, a couple of our guys snuck into Simon Yeo and Ronnie Bull's hotel room and absolutely turned it upside down ...



QUICK HITS
Danny Hay
CLUB: New Zealand Knights
POSITION: Defender
PREVIOUS CLUBS:
Leeds United
Perth Glory
Walsall
BIGGEST INFLUENCE:
"Jim Dale, my schoolteacher"

No wonder Newcastle put four past you. Is that sort of high jinks your usual thing?
Nah, I'm a boring married guy. You'll probably find me at the beach or in cafes. But I do love that TV show *Desperate Housewives*.

Changing the subject, there's a Walsall connection at the Knights, isn't there?
Yeah. After Leeds, I signed for the Saddlers. Knights defenders Darren Bazeley and Neil Emblen are also ex-Walsall. Darren used to look after the pre-match music in the Walsall dressing room.

And how was it living in the area?
Mate, Walsall was a bit dull. Auckland's beautiful though – but I'm a biased Kiwi.

Of course. But they say Kiwi football's as bleak as a Melbourne winter ...
(Laughs) Well, after that display recently in London, where we only lost 1-0 to the Socceroos in the last five minutes, it shows there's plenty of spirit with the All-Whites.

No doubt, but is there enough spirit in Hiddink's Qantas Socceroos for the game in November?
I actually think they've got a good chance, especially if Harry Kewell and Mark Viduka fire, and they learn from past mistakes. It'll be great for certain players ending their international careers to qualify for the World Cup.

And when you end your career, what are you going to do?
I really don't know, but you know what? I wouldn't mind getting into some business that's completely different from football.

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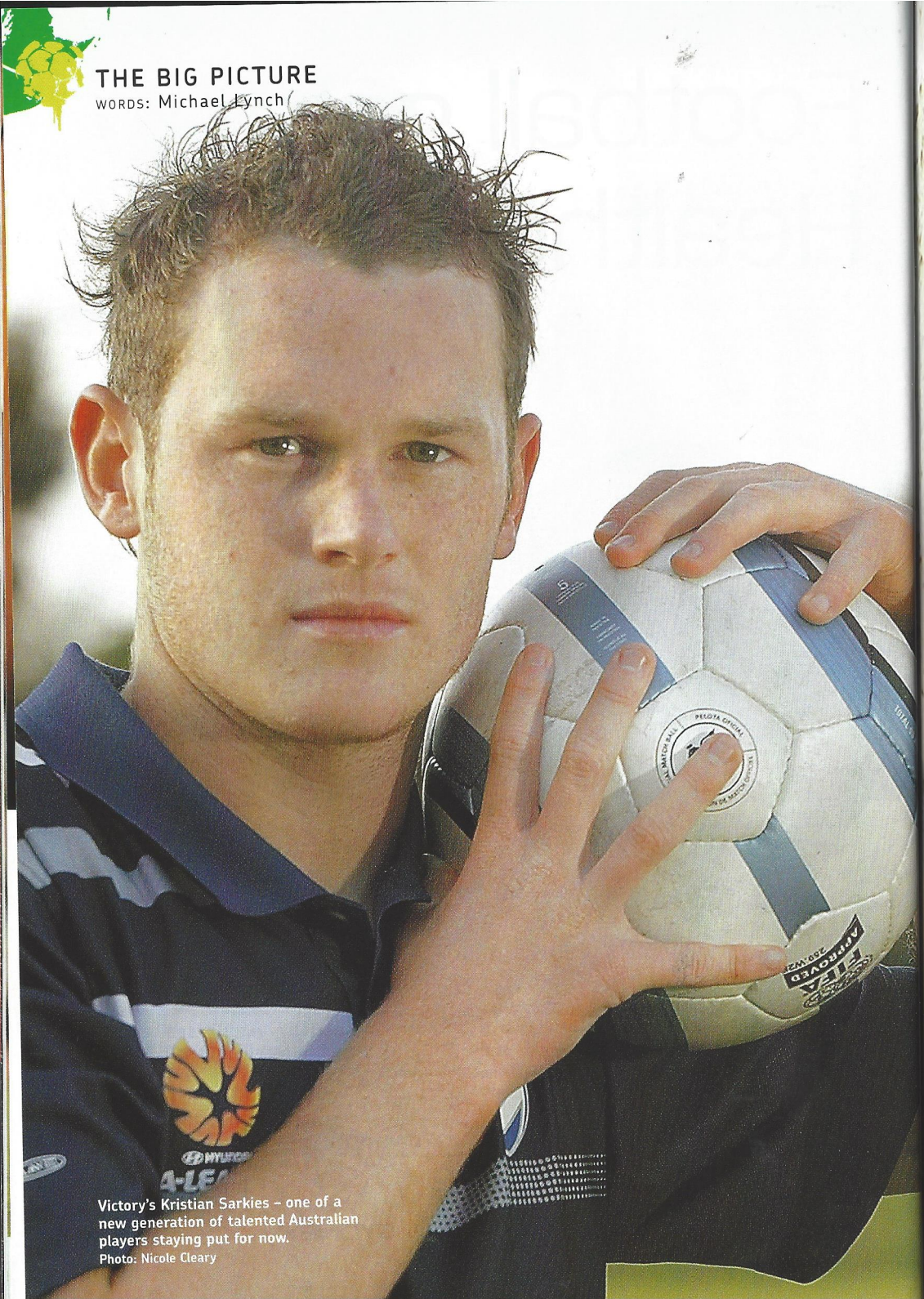
WORDS: Michael Lynch



Victory's Kristian Sarkies – one of a new generation of talented Australian players staying put for now.
Photo: Nicole Cleary

DOMESTIC BLISS

For years, Australian football has watched its young talent pool diminish, with players heading overseas for opportunities. With the Hyundai A-League, that's all changing.

Several Australian international stars have made the journey home to see out their career in the Hyundai A-League, boosting their own profiles and those of their clubs.

Players like Melbourne Victory skipper Kevin Muscat, Newcastle's elegant midfielder and defender Ned Zelic, Sydney's skilful midfielder Steve Corica and striker David Zdrilic have all attracted plenty of headlines and media interest since their return from leagues in England, Germany and Austria.

Less heralded but perhaps more significant is the swelling number of top-flight young Australian players who have delayed moving overseas to build and develop their careers in the new domestic competition.

Brett Emerton honed his skills here before heading overseas.

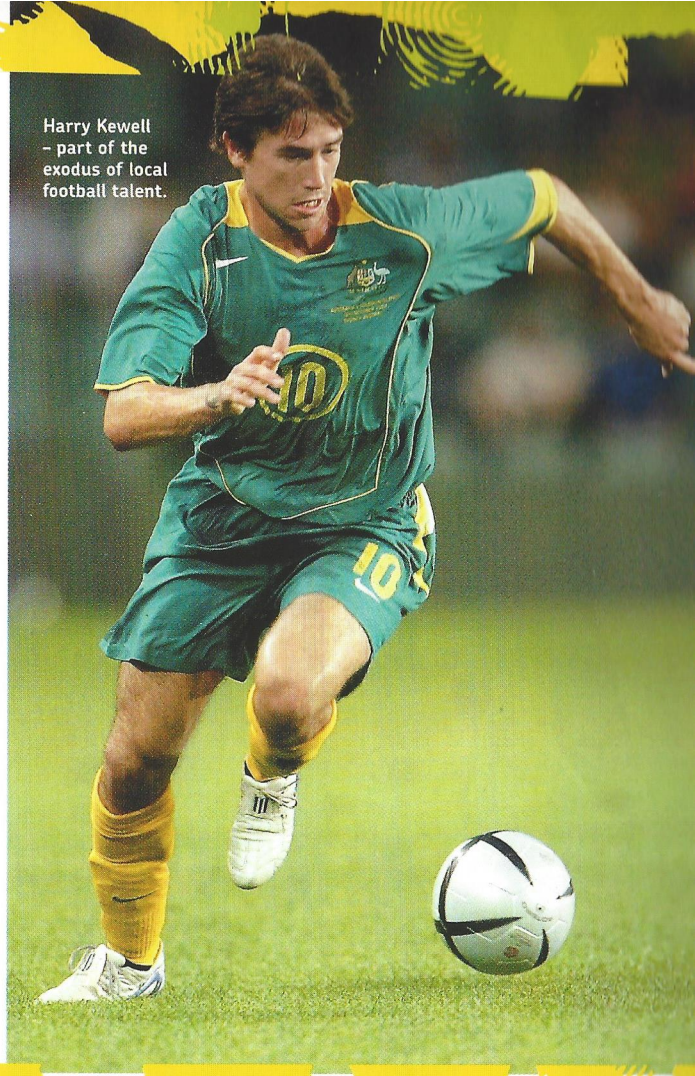
Players like Queensland Roar's Alex Brosque and Spase Dilevski have actually returned from Europe to play in the Hyundai A-League, while others, like Melbourne Victory's under-20 internationals Kristian Sarkies and Adrian Leijer have opted to stay in Australia for another couple of years at least, before shifting to Europe to chase contracts with clubs in the major leagues.

The main role of the Hyundai A-League is to create a high-quality professional league that will appeal to a large mainstream audience. That, in turn, should drive sponsor and investor interest and attract enhanced coverage from newspapers and broadcast media outlets.

But a secondary function – one that in many ways is vital to the success of the primary task – is for the competition to be attractive enough to ensure that the best of Australia's young talent, those players who have represented their country at under-17 and under-20 level, stay here in their formative playing years.

For decades, so many of Australia's brightest and best disappeared overseas as soon as they could. The exodus was always more noticeable after under-17 or under-20 World Cups. It was driven by a wish to succeed in the "big show" in Europe and also by a desire to escape from the (mainly) semi-professional NSL, where the prospects of making money and enjoying a serious football career were limited.

"Some players found when they got to clubs in some of the lesser European leagues, the promises of team officials were not worth the paper they were written on ..."
– John Kosmina


Harry Kewell – part of the exodus of local football talent.

There were notable successes. Qantas Socceroos skipper Craig Moore went to Glasgow Rangers as a teenager. Harry Kewell left Sydney at a tender age to blossom at Leeds. Mark Viduka departed after a short time at the Melbourne Knights, firstly to make his name in Zagreb and then to enhance his reputation in Glasgow with Celtic before landing at Leeds, alongside Kewell.

Some players – like those three, and others who left Australia before they played with NSL clubs, like Qantas Socceroos midfielders Josip Skoko and Tim Cahill – thrive on the tougher competition, and find their skill levels improve dramatically in a professional environment.

But for all the big success stories there have been plenty of failures. Some players found when they got to clubs in some of the lesser European leagues, the promises of team officials were not worth the paper they were written on – if they were written at all.

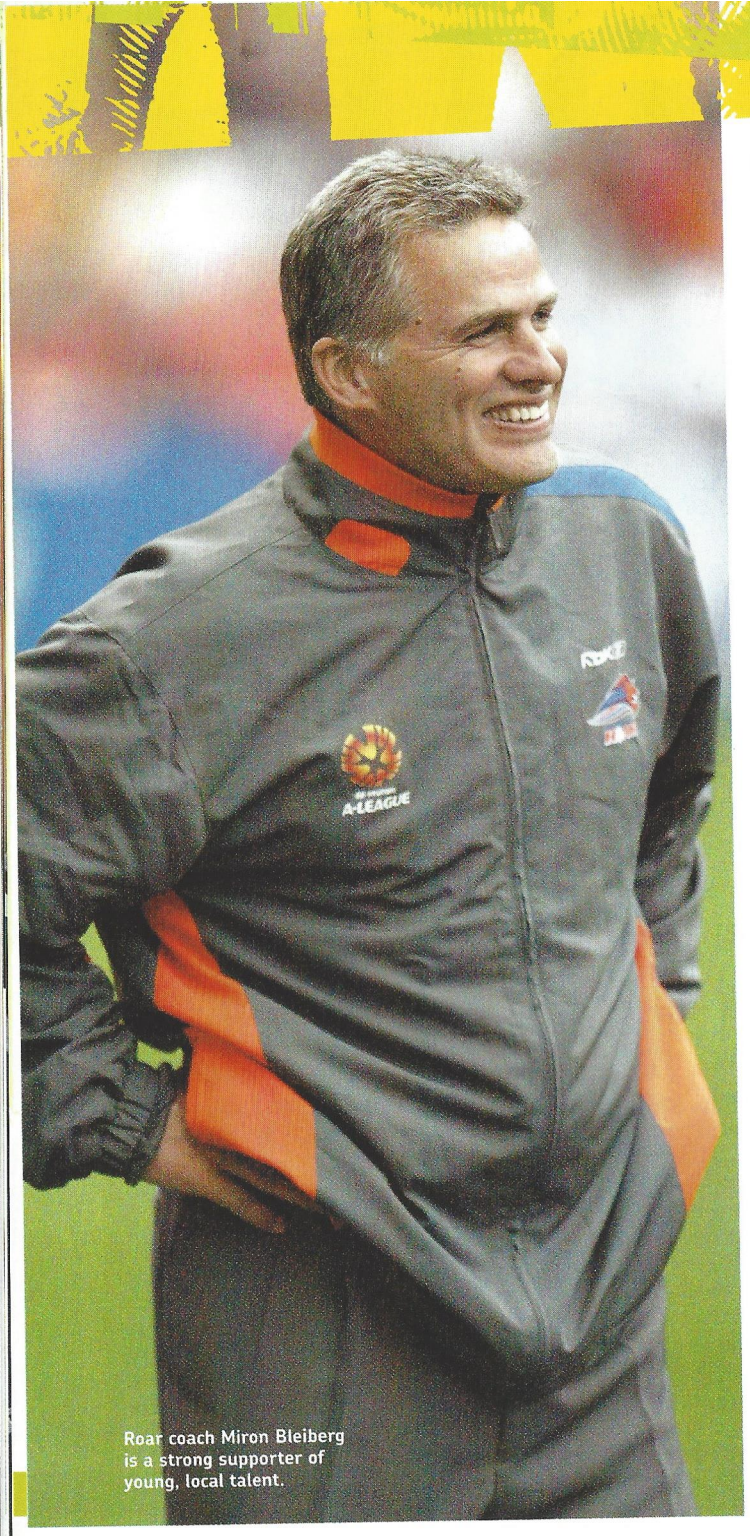
Many returned disillusioned: they might have been rich in life experience, but their football careers had not been at all what they expected.

The reality is that any number of European teams are prepared to take a chance on a teenage project player who will command minimum salary, hoping that one in 30 or 40 ends up a long-term prospect.

The churn rate is so high that young players, unless they are exceptional, get a short window of time in which to impress. If they don't, they are often shipped off on loan to lower division clubs. There, they either get lost in the system or are pigeonholed as once-promising talents who failed to make it at the highest level – and are consequently unlikely to be offered another chance.

The hope for those who stay in the Hyundai A-League is that the league will develop as a high-level competition. This will mean more career prospects – both in financial terms and in professional development – than clubs in lower leagues in European countries.

Players will still leave to go to big European clubs, but hopefully will do so when they are mature professionals able to command a first-team place. Current Qantas Socceroo Brett Emerton is a perfect example; he remained at home until his early 20s, played



Roar coach Miron Bleiberg is a strong supporter of young, local talent.

senior football in the NSL, captained Australia at the 2000 Olympics and then moved to top Dutch club Feyenoord as a ready, first-team squad player.

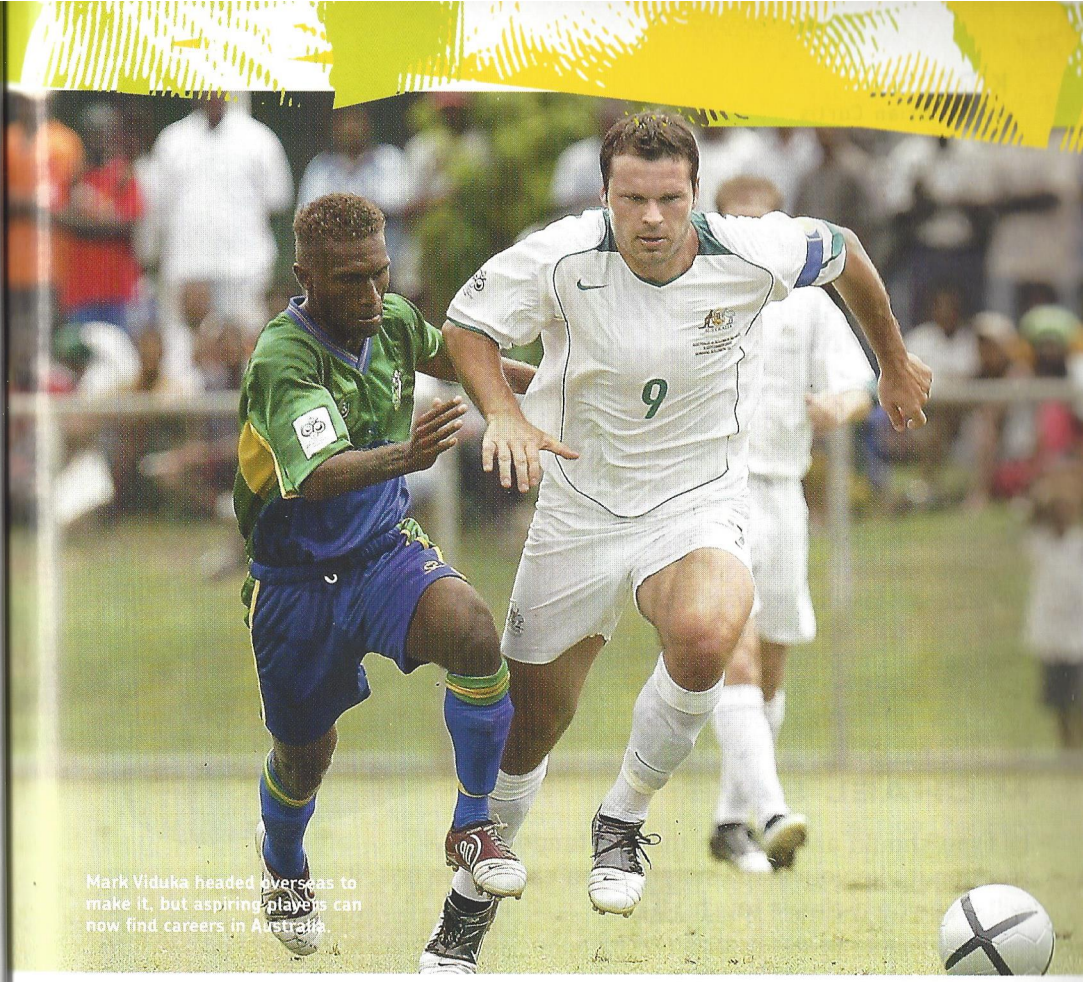
Adrian Leijer, a 19-year-old defender with the Victory, and Christian Sarkies, an 18-year-old midfielder also with the Victorian side, have chalked up plenty of international experience with Australian underage sides, both played in the NSL as 16 and 17 year-olds, and have both been to Europe where they spent time with Premier League club Everton.

The pair agree the reason they are prepared to stay in Australia, at least for the next couple of years, is because the Hyundai A-League offers them a professional standard of football that will take their development to the next level.

"If there wasn't the A-League in place, that's probably where I would already be looking," says Leijer. "The NSL was great for me to play in for me a couple of years ago, but this is much more intense, faster and better for development. Training twice a day on most days is going to improve us and gives us a taste of what European football is like.

Sarkies adds: "The A-League has kept me here. Now there is a bit more money in the game, the clubs are well organised and the standard is higher, the games are quicker and more intense.

"The professionalism is greater. The only difference between here and overseas would probably be more teams and the chance to play against other countries. Hopefully, the Asian champions league will be up and running and we can qualify for that. That will give us



Mark Viduka headed overseas to make it, but aspiring players can now find careers in Australia.

even more to play for."

Roar coach Miron Bleiberg is a strong supporter of young Australian talent, having recruited seven of the team that went to the 2003 FIFA World Youth Cup as Young Qantas Socceroos. He believes that instead of heading off to Europe, many will opt to stay in this country to play in a high-quality professional league and earn good wages.

"There's no doubt in my mind that they will stay here to play in front of their friends and family. Two of my players, Michael Baird and Jonathan Richter, had opportunities to go to Romania and England and stayed here.

"Alex Brosque came back here from Belgium and is blossoming, while in Belgium he was a nobody. Spase Dilevski was a small fish at PSV Eindhoven and at Tottenham. Now he is playing regularly here and enjoying his game. Michael Ferrante from Melbourne did the same, came back from Europe. The crop of talent will be here."

Bleiberg is never afraid to think laterally, and he is adamant that by the next World Cup a majority of Qantas Socceroos players could be plying their trade in the Hyundai A-League.

Bleiberg points out that when current Qantas Socceroos coach Guus Hiddink took South Korea to the World Cup semi-final, he used virtually all home based players from Korea's K-League. Bleiberg believes a similar trend will follow here.

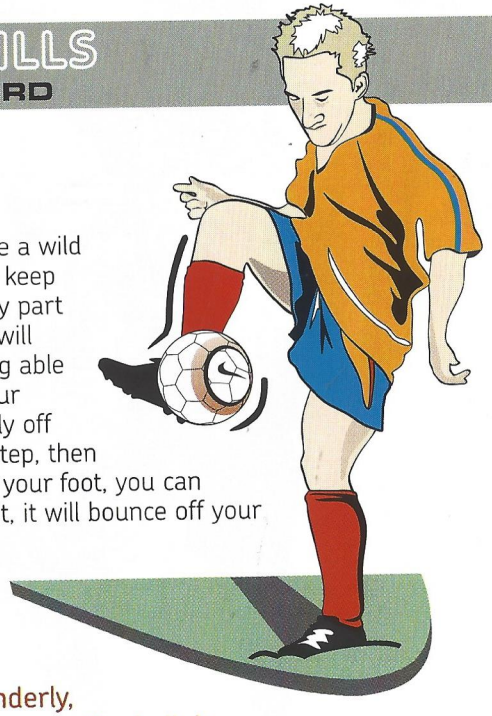
"I believe that for the 2010 World Cup preparations we will see less and less of the Australian players training and having camps in Europe," he says. "By then it will be the opposite, with European-based Australians coming back here for national team training."

Michael Lynch is chief football writer for The Age *in Melbourne.*

WORDS: Brian Curtis

FOOTBALL SKILLS
WITH MICHAEL BAIRD

This week's skill:
> TRAPPING

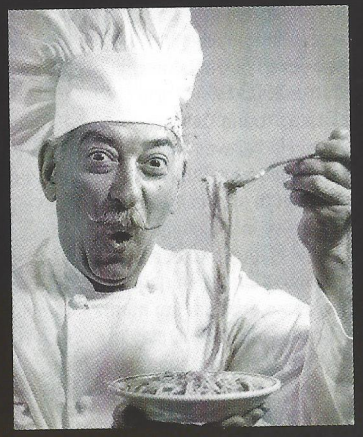


When you "trap", you're not trying to capture a wild animal. You are trying to control a pass and keep the ball close to you. You can use almost any part of your body to trap the ball, but often you will use your feet. The secret to trapping is being able to cushion the ball. As the ball is coming your way, put your foot out in front of you, slightly off the ground. Make soft contact with your instep, then draw your foot back. If you give a little with your foot, you can trap the ball and control it softly. If you don't, it will bounce off your foot and away from you. Think of trying to catch a water bomb: if you don't catch it gently, it will explode all over you.

MICHAEL SAYS:

"You should always trap the ball tenderly, treating it like your baby sister. If you caress the ball, it will give you a closer touch."

What in the weird?



Have you heard the saying "you are what you eat"? In the 1962 World Cup in Chile, the home team adopted the motto "you beat what you eat". To beat Switzerland in the early rounds, the Chileans all ate Swiss cheese. When they faced the strong Italian squad, everyone on the team had a spaghetti dinner. Before the quarter-final against the former Soviet Republic, the Chileans drank vodka, which is normally off limits before a big game. Their strategy seemed to be working well, but it fell apart when they tried drinking coffee to beat Brazil in the semi-final. Losing to the eventual champions 4-2, Chile had to admit that their plan wasn't perfect, but at least they were awake to watch the finals.

DID YOU KNOW?

Glory's Milan Jovanic

Last week, Perth Glory travelled to Auckland to face the New Zealand Knights on what was the longest road trip in any domestic football competition for more than a decade. The distance from Perth to Auckland is more than 5400 km, meaning a flight time of eight hours and a time difference of four hours for the travelling team. The only time teams have travelled a greater distance in a top-level domestic football competition in any part of the world was in 1993, when Luch Vladivostok and Okean Nahodka played their only season in the Russian first division. One-way trips involving far-eastern Russian teams regularly meant a flight of more than 6000 km, with the furthest distance being a 7114-km trip between Okean Nahodka and Black Sea team Zhemchuzhina Sochi.

JUMBLED PLAYERS

Some of the Hyundai A-League's players have had their names rearranged. Can you unjumble them? Answers are below the jumbled names.

1. **CLEAR NAVAL ZONE** plays in the midfield for the Knights.

2. **SWAT MEAN MOTH** can be found in Central Coast's midfield.

3. It's hard to get it past Adelaide's **LATERAL BEE MIND**.

4. There is a **SNOOTY MISER** playing defence for the Victory.

Answers 1. Zenon Caravella 2. Matthew Osman 3. Daniel Bettrame 4. Simon Storey

F A-Z OF FOOTBALL

Join us as we work our way through the football alphabet.

FIFA
Fédération Internationale de Football Association, the governing body of world football, based in Switzerland.

Futsal
Five-a-side version of indoor soccer, from the Portuguese *futebol de salão*, which translates as "room soccer".

Frank Farina
Former coach of the Qantas Socceroos who also used to play in the Australian National Soccer League and in Europe.

FA Cup
England's Football Association Challenge Cup is the oldest soccer tournament in the world. It is a knockout tournament, in which teams from any division in English football can be randomly drawn to play each other.

Football great Frank Farina.

FIXTURE

ROUND	FIXTURE	VENUE	KICK-OFF
ROUND 1			
Fri 26 Aug 05	Newcastle Jets FC 0 **Adelaide United FC 1**	Energy Australia Stadium, Newcastle	8.00 pm
Fri 26 Aug 05	Perth Glory FC 0 **Central Coast Mariners FC 1**	Members Equity Stadium, Perth	8.00 pm
Sun 28 Aug 05	**Queensland Roar FC 2** New Zealand Knights FC 0	Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane	3.00 pm
Sun 28 Aug 05	Sydney FC 1 Melbourne Victory FC 1	Aussie Stadium, Sydney	5.00 pm
ROUND 2			
Fri 2 Sep 05	New Zealand Knights FC 1 **Sydney FC 3**	North Harbour Stadium, Auckland	8.00 pm
Fri 2 Sep 05	Adelaide United FC 0 Queensland Roar FC 0	Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide	7.30 pm
Sun 4 Sep 05	Central Coast Mariners FC 1 Newcastle Jets FC 1	Central Coast Stadium, Gosford	3.00 pm
Sun 4 Sep 05	Melbourne Victory FC 2 Perth Glory FC 2	Olympic Park, Melbourne	5.00 pm
ROUND 3			
Fri 9 Sep 05	**Adelaide United FC 1** Melbourne Victory FC 0	Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide	7.30 pm
Sat 10 Sep 05	Central Coast Mariners FC 0 **New Zealand Knights FC 2**	Central Coast Stadium, Gosford	7.35 pm
Sat 10 Sep 05	**Perth Glory FC 2** Queensland Roar FC 1	Members Equity Stadium, Perth	7.35 pm
Sun 11 Sep 05	**Newcastle Jets FC 2** Sydney FC 1	Energy Australia Stadium, Newcastle	5.00 pm
ROUND 4			
Fri 16 Sep 05	Sydney FC 2 **Central Coast Mariners FC 3**	Aussie Stadium, Sydney	8.00 pm
Sat 17 Sep 05	Perth Glory FC 1 **Adelaide United FC 2**	Members Equity Stadium, Perth	7.35 pm
Sun 18 Sep 05	Queensland Roar FC 1 Melbourne Victory FC 1	Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane	3.00 pm
Sun 18 Sep 05	**Newcastle Jets FC 4** New Zealand Knights FC 0	Energy Australia Stadium, Newcastle	5.00 pm
ROUND 5			
Thu 22 Sep 05	New Zealand Knights FC 0 **Perth Glory FC 1**	North Harbour Stadium, Auckland	8.00 pm
Fri 23 Sep 05	Queensland Roar FC 1 **Sydney FC 3**	Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane	8.00 pm
Sun 25 Sep 05	Adelaide United FC 1 Central Coast Mariners FC 1	Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide	6.30 pm
Sun 25 Sep 05	**Melbourne Victory FC 1** Newcastle Jets FC 0	Olympic Park, Melbourne	5.00 pm
ROUND 6			
Fri 30 Sep 05	Central Coast Mariners FC vs Melbourne Victory FC	Central Coast Stadium, Gosford	8.00 pm
Sat 1 Oct 05	Newcastle Jets FC vs Queensland Roar FC	Energy Australia Stadium, Newcastle	7.35 pm
Sat 1 Oct 05	Perth Glory FC vs Sydney FC	Members Equity Stadium, Perth	7.35 pm
Sun 2 Oct 05	New Zealand Knights FC vs Adelaide United FC	North Harbour Stadium, Auckland	6.00 pm
ROUND 7			
Fri 7 Oct 05	Queensland Roar FC vs Central Coast Mariners FC	Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane	8.00 pm
Sat 8 Oct 05	Newcastle Jets FC vs Perth Glory FC	Energy Australia Stadium, Newcastle	7.35 pm
Sun 9 Oct 05	Sydney FC vs Adelaide United FC	Aussie Stadium, Sydney	5.00 pm
Mon 10 Oct 05	Melbourne Victory FC vs New Zealand Knights FC	Olympic Park, Melbourne	7.00 pm
ROUND 8			
Fri 14 Oct 05	Adelaide United FC vs Newcastle Jets FC	Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide	7.30 pm
Sun 16 Oct 05	Melbourne Victory FC vs Sydney FC	Olympic Park, Melbourne	1.00 pm
Sun 16 Oct 05	New Zealand Knights FC vs Queensland Roar FC	North Harbour Stadium, Auckland	6.00 pm
Sun 16 Oct 05	Central Coast Mariners FC vs Perth Glory FC	Central Coast Stadium, Gosford	5.00 pm
ROUND 9			
Fri 21 Oct 05	Sydney FC vs New Zealand Knights FC	Aussie Stadium, Sydney	8.00 pm
Sat 22 Oct 05	Queensland Roar FC vs Adelaide United FC	Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane	7.35 pm
Sun 23 Oct 05	Newcastle Jets FC vs Central Coast Mariners FC	Energy Australia Stadium, Newcastle	5.00 pm
Sun 23 Oct 05	Perth Glory FC vs Melbourne Victory FC	Members Equity Stadium, Perth	5.00 pm
ROUND 10			
Fri 28 Oct 05	Melbourne Victory FC vs Adelaide United FC	Olympic Park, Melbourne	8.00 pm
Sat 29 Oct 05	New Zealand Knights FC vs Central Coast Mariners FC	North Harbour Stadium, Auckland	8.00 pm
Sat 29 Oct 05	Queensland Roar FC vs Perth Glory FC	Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane	7.35 pm
Sun 30 Oct 05	Sydney FC vs Newcastle Jets FC	Aussie Stadium, Sydney	5.00 pm
ROUND 11			
Fri 4 Nov 05	New Zealand Knights FC vs Newcastle Jets FC	North Harbour Stadium, Auckland	8.00 pm
Fri 4 Nov 05	Melbourne Victory FC vs Queensland Roar FC	Olympic Park, Melbourne	8.00 pm
Sat 5 Nov 05	Central Coast Mariners FC vs Sydney FC	Central Coast Stadium, Gosford	8.00 pm
Sun 6 Nov 05	Adelaide United FC vs Perth Glory FC	Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide	4.30 pm
ROUND 12			
Fri 11 Nov 05	Melbourne Victory FC vs Newcastle Jets FC	Olympic Park, Melbourne	8.00 pm
Fri 11 Nov 05	Perth Glory FC vs New Zealand Knights FC	Members Equity Stadium, Perth	7.00 pm
Sun 13 Nov 05	Central Coast Mariners FC vs Adelaide United FC	Central Coast Stadium, Gosford	3.00 pm
Sun 13 Nov 05	Sydney FC vs Queensland Roar FC	Aussie Stadium, Sydney	5.00 pm

ROUND	FIXTURE	VENUE	KICK-OFF
ROUND 13			
Fri 18 Nov 05	Melbourne Victory FC vs Central Coast Mariners FC	Olympic Park, Melbourne	8.00 pm
Sat 19 Nov 05	Sydney FC vs Perth Glory FC	Aussie Stadium, Sydney	8.00 pm
Sun 20 Nov 05	Adelaide United FC vs New Zealand Knights FC	Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide	4.30 pm
Sun 20 Nov 05	Queensland Roar FC vs Newcastle Jets FC	Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane	6.00 pm
ROUND 14			
Fri 25 Nov 05	Central Coast Mariners FC vs Queensland Roar FC	Central Coast Stadium, Gosford	8.00 pm
Fri 25 Nov 05	Perth Glory FC vs Newcastle Jets FC	Members Equity Stadium, Perth	7.00 pm
Sat 26 Nov 05	New Zealand Knights FC vs Melbourne Victory FC	North Harbour Stadium, Auckland	8.00 pm
Sun 27 Nov 05	Adelaide United FC vs Sydney FC	Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide	4.30 pm
ROUND 15			
Thu 1 Dec 05	Queensland Roar FC vs New Zealand Knights FC	Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane	7.00 pm
Fri 2 Dec 05	Newcastle Jets FC vs Adelaide United FC	Energy Australia Stadium, Newcastle	8.00 pm
Sat 3 Dec 05	Sydney FC vs Melbourne Victory FC	Aussie Stadium, Sydney	8.00 pm
Sun 4 Dec 05	Perth Glory FC vs Central Coast Mariners FC	Members Equity Stadium, Perth	5.00 pm
WORLD CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS - WEEK ENDING 11 DECEMBER 2005			
WORLD CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS - WEEK ENDING 18 DECEMBER 2005			
WORLD CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS - WEEK ENDING 25 DECEMBER 2005			
ROUND 16			
Thu 29 Dec 05	Melbourne Victory FC vs Perth Glory FC	Olympic Park, Melbourne	8.00 pm
Fri 30 Dec 05	New Zealand Knights FC vs Sydney FC	North Harbour Stadium, Auckland	8.00 pm
Sat 31 Dec 05	Central Coast Mariners FC vs Newcastle Jets FC	Central Coast Stadium, Gosford	6.00 pm
Sun 1 Jan 06	Adelaide United FC vs Queensland Roar FC	Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide	6.30 pm
ROUND 17			
Thu 5 Jan 06	Adelaide United FC vs Melbourne Victory FC	Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide	7.30 pm
Fri 6 Jan 06	Sydney FC vs Newcastle Jets FC	Aussie Stadium, Sydney	8.00 pm
Sat 7 Jan 06	Perth Glory FC vs Queensland Roar FC	Members Equity Stadium, Perth	7.00 pm
Sun 8 Jan 06	Central Coast Mariners FC vs New Zealand Knights FC	Central Coast Stadium, Gosford	5.00 pm
ROUND 18			
Thu 12 Jan 06	Perth Glory FC vs Adelaide United FC	Members Equity Stadium, Perth	7.00 pm
Fri 13 Jan 06	Newcastle Jets FC vs New Zealand Knights FC	Energy Australia Stadium, Newcastle	8.00 pm
Sat 14 Jan 06	Sydney FC vs Central Coast Mariners FC	Aussie Stadium, Sydney	8.00 pm
Sun 15 Jan 06	Queensland Roar FC vs Melbourne Victory FC	Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane	6.00 pm
ROUND 19			
Thu 19 Jan 06	New Zealand Knights FC vs Perth Glory FC	North Harbour Stadium, Auckland	8.00 pm
Fri 20 Jan 06	Adelaide United FC vs Central Coast Mariners FC	Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide	7.30 pm
Sat 21 Jan 06	Queensland Roar FC vs Sydney FC	Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane	7.00 pm
Sun 22 Jan 06	Newcastle Jets FC vs Melbourne Victory FC	Energy Australia Stadium, Newcastle	5.00 pm
ROUND 20			
Thu 26 Jan 06	Newcastle Jets FC vs Queensland Roar FC	Energy Australia Stadium, Newcastle	8.00 pm
Fri 27 Jan 06	Central Coast Mariners FC vs Melbourne Victory FC	Central Coast Stadium, Gosford	8.00 pm
Sat 28 Jan 06	New Zealand Knights FC vs Adelaide United FC	North Harbour Stadium, Auckland	8.00 pm
Sun 29 Jan 06	Perth Glory FC vs Sydney FC	Members Equity Stadium, Perth	5.00 pm
ROUND 21			
Fri 3 Feb 06	Sydney FC vs Adelaide United FC	Aussie Stadium, Sydney	8.00 pm
Sat 4 Feb 06	Melbourne Victory FC vs New Zealand Knights FC	Olympic Park, Melbourne	6.00 pm
Sat 4 Feb 06	Queensland Roar FC vs Central Coast Mariners FC	Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane	7.00 pm
Sun 5 Feb 06	Newcastle Jets FC vs Perth Glory FC	Energy Australia Stadium, Newcastle	5.00 pm
FINALS			
WEEK 1	**SEMI-FINAL 1ST LEG (1 v 2, 3 v 4)**		
Fri 10 Feb 06			
Sun 12 Feb 06			
WEEK 2	**SEMI-FINAL 2ND LEG (1 v 2, 3 v 4)**		
Fri 17 Feb 06			
Sun 19 Feb 06			
WEEK 3	**PRELIMINARY FINAL (LOSER 1 v 2) v (WINNER 3 v 4)**		
Sat 25 Feb 06			
WEEK 4	**GRAND FINAL (WINNER 1 v 2) v (WINNER PRELIMINARY)**		
Sat 4 Mar 06			

All times local and subject to change

CLUBNEWS

A club-by-club guide to what's happening off the field in the Hyundai A-League.

Sydney fans showing their support at Aussie Stadium.

Sydney FC

Sydney FC is working with sponsors to put together tour packages for the FIFA Club World Championships in Japan from December 11 to 18.

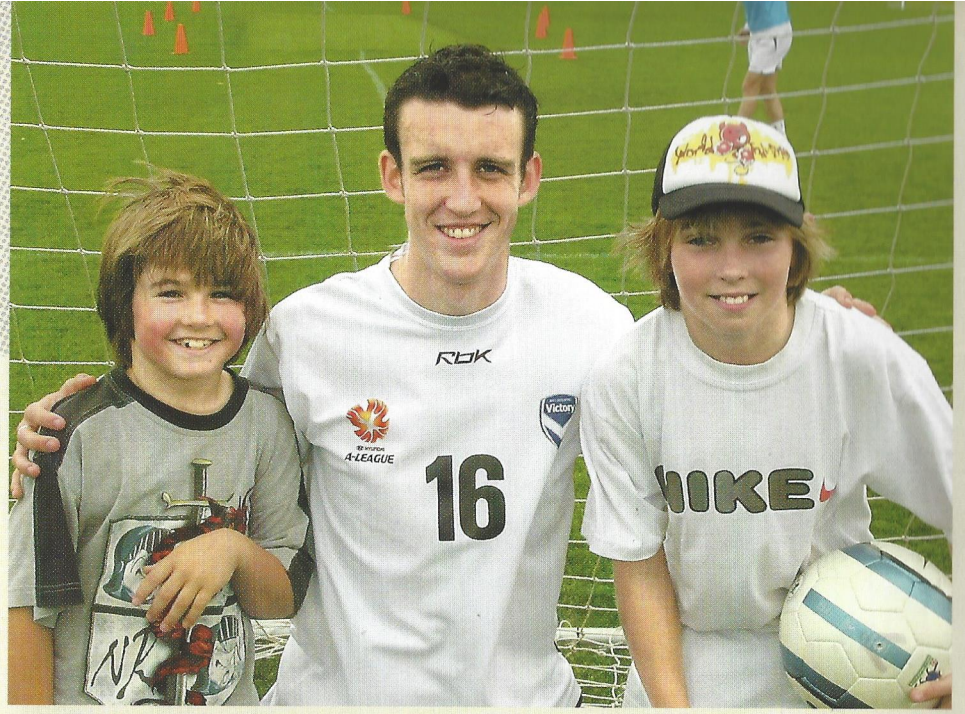
Tickets are on sale through FIFA, but Sydney FC is asking fans to hold off purchasing tickets until packages to suit all budgets are available.

Sydney FC midfielder Terry McFlynn would like to thank the Sydney FC fans, particularly the devoted supporters in The Cove for the support they showed in Round Four.

McFlynn lost his uncle and aunt in a car accident in Ireland during the week and was contemplating returning for the funeral, but decided to stay in Australia and play against Central Coast.

When the teams walked onto Aussie Stadium, The Cove lifted a banner that read: "Terry: in times of need The Cove is with you".

"It was a very special thing for the fans to do," said McFlynn. "I would love the opportunity to say thank you. It was a difficult time for me and my family, and to have that sort of support from the fans meant a lot to me."



Simon Storey with local soccer fans Joel and Jacob Rattya.

Melbourne Victory

Melbourne Victory played host to a busload of special guests last week, as children from the Royal Children's Hospital were treated to the Melbourne Victory vs Newcastle Jets clash.

Among the kids was Jacob Rattya, a football fanatic who suffers from congenital myotonia, a rare genetic condition. The disorder severely stiffens Jacob's muscles, and he can only participate in sports with the aid of medication.

Jacob and his brother Joel showed off their skills in front of their Melbourne Victory heroes at training last week. Melbourne Victory utility player Simon Storey was on hand to sign autographs and chat to them.

Jacob's favourite players are the attackers. "I play as a striker and love to score goals," he said.

The visit was initiated by the Victoria Police Soccer Club (VPSC). Vince Manno from the VPSC said they were delighted to help organise the visit. "We fully support Melbourne Victory's community spirit," he said. "We're happy to help the club engage the grassroots by providing youth with mentors and role models."

Queensland Roar

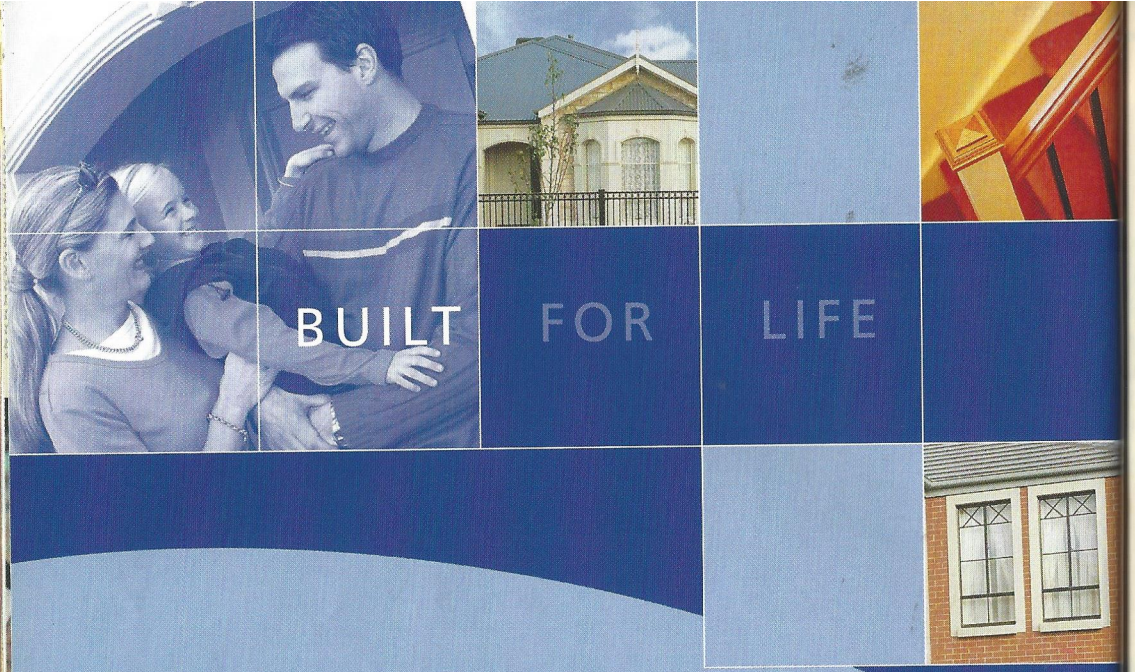
Queensland Roar players visited the annual Gold Coast Champions Cup held at Carrara Stadium recently.

The highlight of the day was Roar players meeting with the Dingoes, a Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander football club.

Coming from all parts of Australia and mixing with the Roar players was something very special for them. Queensland Roar's aim is to support and encourage indigenous football players to compete at the highest level of their ability.

Roar's primary schools competition was launched prior to the Sydney FC game with great success. It was delightful to see girls and boys showing off their football skills at Suncorp Stadium.

On October 7, Roar players will be special guests at the Mango Auction charity event at Brisbane Markets. In the past, players from other football codes have been invited to this event that celebrates the first tray of mangoes in the mango season.



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Central Coast Mariners

The Central Coast Mariners have continued to raise public interest ahead of their Round Six home clash against Melbourne Victory at Central Coast Stadium. They have been heading into the local community to showcase the Central Coast's first nationally exposed sporting entity. Mariners development manager Alex Tobin has made appearances at several Central Coast schools with a selection of players as the school term draws to a close. In the coming weeks, the Central Coast Mariners website will be running a competition to find the Central Coast's most fanatical Mariners business, as well as making the club's inaugural team poster available for purchase.

New Zealand Knights

The Knights continue to make appearances at local club trophy nights, helping hand out trophies to children of all ages. In the next week they will be at Sport Waitakere on October 5 and Birkenhead on the October 14. If you have a request for Knights appearances at any club or school function, please contact Eddie Thompson via email on edward@knightsfc.com.

A number of Knights players appeared at the opening ceremony of the New Zealand Soccer Small Whites tournament at Three Kings United last Friday. The Knights wish the teams all the best.

For supporters of the Knights, wherever you are, sign up to the Knights newsletter to receive updates and information about the club and functions. Go to www.knightsfc.com for details.

Perth Glory

Perth Glory's first open training evening will take place on October 5. Gates will open at 4pm for the session, which will take place on a monthly basis from now on. Steve McMahon's squad will train on the Members Equity Stadium pitch from 4.30pm onwards.

Supporters of all ages will be able to meet their favourite players after the training session and also have the opportunity to collect their autographs. The evening will also host the launch of Peters Glory Squad, with young members receiving their

Mariners supporters Sharne Deal, Danyelle D'Costa and Jo Craft helping raise funds for the Give Me Five For Kids charity in Wyoming.

Adelaide United get in the "red" spirit with a visit to their local fire station.

Glory School Pack, containing a poster, yearbook and stationery in a club backpack.

Tickets are still available for the Perth Glory Dinner Auction on October 14. Lucky bidders could drive away in a brand new Hyundai Tucson or pick up one of hundreds of other sought-after items. Tickets are $80 and available from the club by calling (08) 9492 6000.

Newcastle Jets

The Newcastle Jets' community activities are getting terrific mileage through the local media, but the most pleasing aspect is that the players are enjoying their visits to junior club presentations, community activities and charity events.

The World Duathlon Championships at Newcastle Nobby's Beach was an event where many athletes arrived from various parts of the world and competed on the foreshore. Jobe Wheelhouse, Craig Deans and Andrew Durante made an appearance to assist with the trophy presentations, and stayed back to sign merchandise. They also presented the organisation with some complimentary tickets to the Jets' Hyundai A-League clash against Queensland Roar.

Striker Labinot Haliti, Mark Bridge, Jobe Wheelhouse, Andrew Durante, Ante Milicic, Liam Reddy, Brett Studman and Franco Parisi have continued their shopping centre appearances, this time at the Westfield Kotara. Characters from *Bananas in Pyjamas* also made an appearance, and the hundreds of kids attending greeted the Jets players with a hero's welcome.

Adelaide United

On the Monday of the long weekend on October 3, Adelaide United players will be appearing at Slowdown VI, a charity sporting event for the McGuinness McDermott Foundation at the Adelaide Oval. The players will be holding a skills session for juniors between 11.30am and 12.30pm. Admission to the event requires nothing more a gold coin donation upon entry. Parking in the northern car park at the oval is free.

On October 5, United will be holding an open training session at Hindmarsh Stadium, followed by a barbecue and sausage sizzle. The back pitch will set up with goals for casual play, and Big Red, the team mascot, will be available for photos.

And on October 11, Adelaide United are hosting the Qantas Junior Football Clinic. Those attending will receive 90 minutes of coaching from United stars, a Qantas backpack and two tickets to an Adelaide United game. Under-6 and under-8 players start at 12 noon, with under-9 and under-11 players starting at 2.30pm.

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England Premier League

Saturday, September 24
Birmingham City 2 Liverpool 2
Bolton Wanderers 1 Portsmouth 0
Chelsea 2 Aston Villa 1
Everton 0 **Wigan Athletic 1**
Manchester United 1 **Blackburn Rovers 2**
Newcastle United 1 Manchester City 0
West Bromwich Albion 1 **Charlton Athletic 2**
West Ham United 0 Arsenal 0

Sunday, September 25
Middlesbrough 0 **Sunderland 2**

Blackburn's Morgan Pedersen and Robbie Savage celebrate a goal.

Standings	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Chelsea	7	7	0	0	14	1	21
Charlton Athletic	6	5	0	1	10	4	15
Bolton Wanderers	7	4	2	1	8	4	14
West Ham United	6	3	2	1	10	4	11
Manchester United	6	3	2	1	7	3	11
Manchester City	7	3	2	2	7	6	11
Arsenal	6	3	1	2	9	4	10
Wigan Athletic	6	3	1	2	5	4	10
Tottenham Hotspur	6	2	3	1	5	3	9
Newcastle United	7	2	2	3	5	7	8
Middlesbrough	7	2	2	3	6	9	8
Blackburn Rovers	7	2	2	3	5	9	8
Liverpool	5	1	4	0	3	2	7
Birmingham City	7	1	3	3	7	11	6
Aston Villa	7	1	3	3	6	11	6
Fulham	6	1	2	3	5	9	5
Portsmouth	7	1	2	4	5	9	5
West Bromwich Albion	7	1	2	4	7	13	5
Sunderland	7	1	1	5	5	10	4
Everton	6	1	0	5	1	7	3

Scotland Premier League

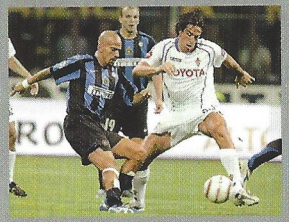
Saturday, September 24
Aberdeen 0 Livingston 0
Celtic 2 Inverness Caledonian Thistle 1
Dunfermline Athletic 2 Dundee United 1
Hearts 1 Rangers 0
Kilmarnock 1 Falkirk 1
Motherwell 1 **Hibernian 3**

Standings	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hearts	8	8	0	0	21	4	24
Celtic	8	6	1	1	19	9	19
Hibernian	8	5	1	2	14	8	16
Kilmarnock	8	4	2	2	17	14	14
Rangers	8	4	1	3	13	9	13
Aberdeen	8	3	2	3	10	9	11
Motherwell	8	3	1	4	19	19	10
Inverness Caledonian Thistle	8	2	2	4	8	9	8
Dundee United	8	2	2	4	11	15	8
Dunfermline Athletic	8	1	2	5	6	14	5
Falkirk	8	1	2	5	5	17	5
Livingston	8	0	2	6	2	18	2

Italy Serie A

Saturday, September 24
Parma 1 **Juventus 2**
Reggina 2 Udinese 0

Sunday, September 25
Cagliari 0 AS Roma 0
Empoli 1 Lecce 0
Inter Milan 1 Fiorentina 0
Lazio 4 Palermo 2
Livorno 2 Ascoli 0
Sampdoria 1 **Chievo Verona 2**
Siena 4 Messina 2
Treviso 0 **AC Milan 2**



Milan's Juan Sebastian Veron challenges Fiorentina's Luca Toni.

Standings	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Juventus	5	5	0	0	10	2	15
Inter Milan	5	4	0	1	10	3	12
Livorno	5	3	2	0	5	1	11
AC Milan	5	3	1	1	9	4	10
Fiorentina	5	3	1	1	11	7	10
Lazio	5	3	1	1	9	6	10
Palermo	5	3	1	1	9	8	10
Sampdoria	5	3	0	2	9	7	9
Chievo Verona	5	3	0	2	6	4	9
AS Roma	5	2	2	1	7	2	8
Siena	5	2	1	2	9	9	7
Udinese	5	2	0	3	4	7	6
Empoli	5	2	0	3	4	7	6
Parma	5	1	1	3	4	8	4
Messina	5	0	3	2	5	8	3
Cagliari	5	0	3	2	4	7	3
Ascoli	5	0	3	2	3	6	3
Reggina	5	1	0	4	5	10	3
Lecce	5	0	1	4	2	9	1
Treviso	5	0	0	5	1	11	0

Argentina Primera División

Saturday, September 24
Rosario Central 0
Gimnasia La Plata 3
Independiente 1 Tiro Federal 0

Sunday, September 25
Estudiantes La Plata 1 River Plate 0
Arsenal de Sarandí 1 Banfield 1
Gimnasia y Esgrima de Jujuy 2
Colón de Santa Fe 2
Olimpo de Bahía Blanca 1 Quilmes 0
Lanús 1 Argentinos Juniors 1
Boca Juniors 2 Racing Club 0
Instituto de Córdoba 2 San Lorenzo 0

Racing Club's Gustavo Cabral goes up against Boca Juniors' Rodrigo Palacio

Standings	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Velez Sarsfield	8	5	1	2	13	5	16
Independiente	8	4	3	1	15	8	15
San Lorenzo de Almagro (BA)	7	4	3	0	14	7	15
Banfield	7	4	3	0	11	4	15
Boca Juniors	7	4	2	1	15	7	14
Argentinos Juniors	7	4	2	1	6	3	14
Racing Club	7	3	2	2	10	9	11
Arsenal	7	3	2	2	9	8	11
Quilmes	7	2	4	1	10	8	10
Estudiantes	7	3	1	3	6	6	10
River Plate	7	3	1	3	8	9	10
Gimnasia-La Plata	8	3	1	4	9	12	10
Rosario Central	8	2	3	3	10	13	9
Olimpo	7	1	5	1	7	7	8
Lanus	7	1	4	2	8	13	7
Newell's Old Boys	8	1	3	4	8	13	6
Gimnasia y Esgrima Jujuy	7	1	2	4	7	11	5
Instituto	7	0	5	2	1	7	5
Colon	7	1	1	5	9	16	4
Tiro Federal	8	0	0	8	4	14	0

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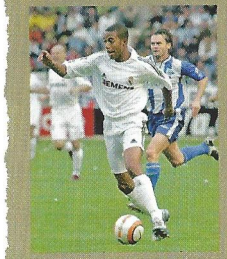
Spain Primera Liga

Saturday, September 24
Atletico Madrid 0 **Getafe 1**
Espanyol 1 **Villarreal 2**
Real Betis 1 **Barcelona 4**
Real Zaragoza 1 Deportivo Coruna 1
Valencia 2 Real Sociedad 1

Sunday, September 25
Alaves 0 **Real Madrid 3**
Athletic Bilbao 0 Racing Santander 0
Celta Vigo 2 Sevilla 1
Osasuna 2 Cadiz 0
Real Mallorca 1 **Malaga 4**



Real Madrid's Robinho being chased by Alaves' Luis Carreras.

Standings	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Celta Vigo	5	4	0	1	9	5	12
Getafe	5	3	2	0	9	5	11
Real Madrid	5	3	0	2	10	6	9
Valencia	5	2	3	0	9	7	9
Deportivo Coruna	5	2	3	0	6	4	9
Osasuna	5	3	0	2	6	5	9
Barcelona	5	2	2	1	9	5	8
Real Zaragoza	5	1	4	0	6	4	7
Malaga	5	2	1	2	7	6	7
Racing Santander	5	2	1	2	2	2	7
Espanyol	5	2	0	3	4	6	6
Real Sociedad	5	2	0	3	8	13	6
Athletic Bilbao	5	1	2	2	6	6	5
Villarreal	5	1	2	2	6	7	5
Sevilla	5	1	2	2	3	4	5
Cadiz	5	1	2	2	3	5	5
Real Betis	5	1	2	2	3	6	5
Atletico Madrid	5	1	1	3	4	6	4
Real Mallorca	5	1	1	3	7	10	4
Alaves	5	0	2	3	4	9	2

France Ligue 1

Saturday, September 24
Auxerre 3 Sochaux 0
Monaco 0 Nice 0
AS Nancy 2 ES Troyes AC 1
Girondins Bordeaux 1 Ajaccio 0
Le Mans 0 Paris St Germain 0
Lille 2 St Etienne 0
Olympique Marseille 3 Metz 1
Racing Strasbourg 2 **Toulouse 4**

Sunday, September 25
Nantes 0 **Olympique Lyon 1**
Racing Lens 0 Stade Rennes 0

Standings	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Olympique Lyon	9	6	3	0	12	5	21
Paris St Germain	9	5	2	2	12	8	17
Girondins Bordeaux	9	4	4	1	9	5	16
Auxerre	9	5	1	3	11	13	16
Lille	9	4	3	2	14	7	15
Le Mans	9	4	3	2	10	4	15
Racing Lens	9	3	5	1	14	6	14
St Etienne	9	3	4	2	7	5	13
Nice	9	3	3	3	8	10	12
Nantes	9	3	2	4	8	6	11
Ajaccio	9	2	5	2	7	7	11
Olympique Marseille	9	3	2	4	10	12	11
Monaco	9	3	2	4	6	9	11
Toulouse	9	3	2	4	7	11	11
Stade Rennes	9	3	2	4	10	19	11
AS Nancy	9	3	1	5	12	8	10
ES TroyesAC	9	2	3	4	8	10	9
Sochaux	9	2	2	5	4	9	8
Racing Strasbourg	9	0	5	4	4	9	5
Metz	9	0	4	5	4	14	4

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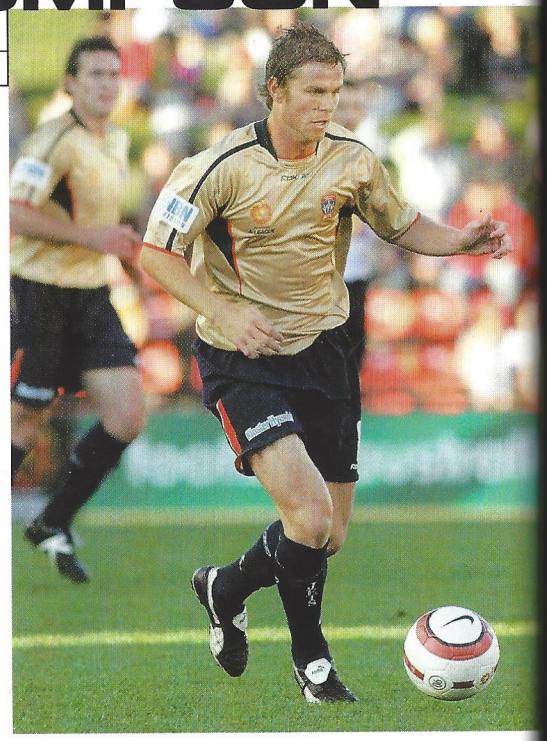
MATT THOMPSON

CLUB: Newcastle Jets **POSITION:** Midfielder



Matt Thompson is known for dazzling defences with incisive runs down the right-hand side of the pitch. Total Football's **Marlo Dangerfield** finds out he's got razzle to go with his dazzle.

What's your nickname at the Jets?
Thomo.

Surely you've got something more original than that ...
Some people call me 'Razler', because that's what my car numberplates say.

Why do you have RAZLER on your plates?
As in 'razzle-dazzle'.

Have you got razzle-dazzle?
I've got a few people fooled.

Do you remember watching your first game of football?
Yeah, my dad was a player in the state league and I was a ball-boy for him. One game, when I was about four years old, I ran off with the ball for no reason and had all these grown men chase me across the park.

What's the best prank you've ever played on a teammate?
We were at the airport waiting for our bags and I went around to where they come out onto the carousel. I emptied one of the boys' bags out on to the belt. So he saw all his clothes come along one by one and the whole place got a look at his jocks.

Who would you rather have on your team: Maradona or Pelé?
Pelé, because I met him. I was 12 and he came to talk to us about his experience in the World Cup. I got to shake his hand.

What about John Howard or Dame Edna?
Dame Edna, because at least she'd give us a laugh.

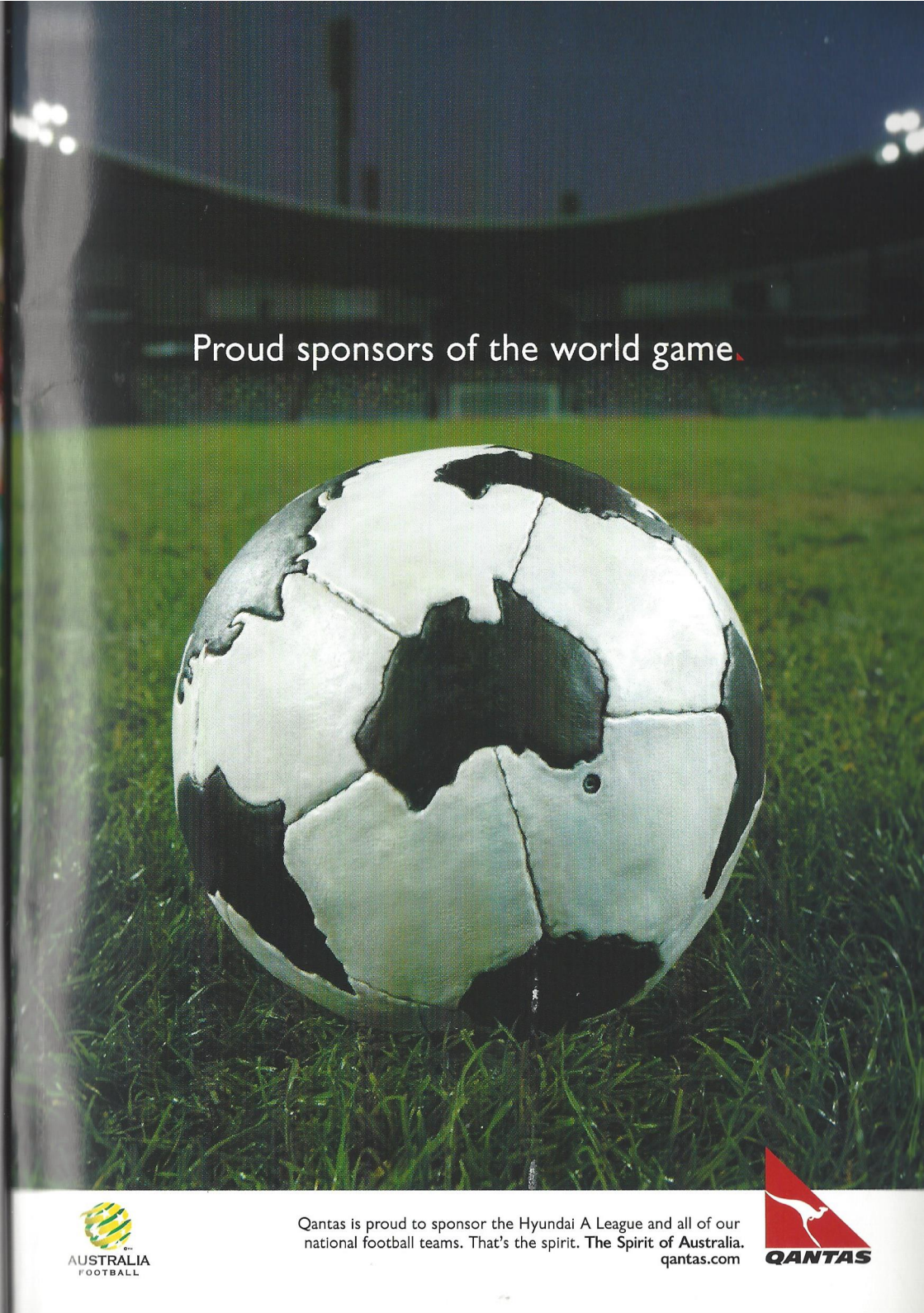
Shane Warne or Ricky Ponting?
Shane Warne, for the same reason.

Xena or Catwoman?
Catwoman, especially if she was played by Halle Berry.

If you were on death row, what would you ask for your last meal?
It would have to be steak with Diane sauce on mashed potato.

What would you have done to get on death row?
Umm ... I'd owe people money for sure.

I'd better get going before you hit me up for some cash. Thanks Matt.
Catch you soon.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